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BRITANNIA DEPICTA;

A SERIES OF VIEWS

(With brief Descriptions)

OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND PICTURESQUE OBJECTS

IN GREAT BRITAIN,

ENGRAVED FROM DRAWINGS BY

Messrs. HEARNE, FARINGTON, SMITH, TURNER, ALEXANDER, &c.

B1940

BY WILLIAM BYRNE, F.A.S.

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THE COUNTIES ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED;

PART I.

Containing Twenty-four Views in

BEDFORDSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Twenty-four Views contained in this First Part will serve to illustrate the First Volume (published at the same Time) of a new Work, entitled MAGNA BRITANNIA: or a concise Topographical Account of the several Counties of Great Britain, by the Rev. DANIEL LYSONS, F. R. S. and F. A. S. and SAMUEL LYSONS, Esq. F. R. S. and F. A. S. and when bound therewith may be placed as follows:

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The second and subsequent Parts of BRITANNIA DEPICTA will be published regularly at the same periods as the continuation of the MAGNA BRITANNIA; arranged in the same manner, and printed on papers of corresponding size and quality.

VIEW OF BEDFORD.

BEDFORD, the county town, is situated on the river Ouse, which divides it into two parts, and is fifty miles from London. It is esteemed a borough by prescription, and has had a market also, and a body corporate, from time immemorial. The right of election was in 1690 determined to be in the burgesses, freemen, and inhabitant householders, not receiving alms; the mayor and bailiffs are the returning-officers. The corporation consists of a mayor, aldermen, two chamberlains, and 13 common councilmen; the number of aldermen is uncertain, the office of mayor being always filled by a burgess who has previously served the offices of bailiff and sheriff, and who, immediately after the expiration of his mayoralty, becomes an alderman. The principal market at Bedford, which is held on Saturday, on the North side of the river, is a considerable mart for corn: the Monday's market, on the South side, is chiefly for pigs. There are six annual fairs, viz. the first Tuesday in Lent, April 21, Old Midsummer day, Aug. 21, Oct. 12, and Dec. 29: besides these, an annual fair is held at St. Leonard's farm on the 17th of November. The principal manufacture of Bedford is lace, which employs most of the female poor. A considerable trade is carried on in coals, which are brought by the Ouse from Lynne and Yarmouth.

BEDFORD is supposed to have been the *Bedicanford* of the Saxon Chronicle, where the battle was fought between Cuthwulf and the Britons in 572; and it is said to have been the burial-place of Offa, king of the Mercians. The town sustained great damage in the wars between the Saxons and the Danes; it was repaired by King Edward the Elder, but was again destroyed by the Danes in 1010. King William Rufus gave the barony of Bedford to Pain de Beauchamp, who built a strong castle adjoining the town, esteemed a fortress of such importance, that it has been observed, that whilst it lasted there was scarcely a storm of civil fury that did not burst upon it: the Beauchamps, its owners, garrisoned it against King Stephen, who took it, not without great difficulty; but historians differ as to the means. In 1216, William de Beauchamp, being then possessed of the barony of Bedford, took part with the rebellious barons, and received them as friends into his castle, which they were advancing to besiege: the King having sent his favourite, Faukes de Brent, to summon the castle, it was surrendered within a few days, and given to him for his good services. In the following reign, this powerful baron, having set himself above all authority of law, and imprisoned Henry de Braybroke, one of the King's justices, in his castle at Bedford, the King marched thither in person, attended by his principal nobility, and after a siege of two months, took the castle, which he ordered to be demolished. Faukes de Brent, who was absent at the time of the capture, came and threw himself on the Royal mercy, and was pardoned, on condition of quitting the realm: one of his brothers, who defended the castle, was pardoned also; but another brother, and twenty-four of his officers, were executed. The barony of Bedford was restored to William de Beauchamp, who had leave to erect a mansion on the site of the castle, but without fortifications: the barony of Bedford was inherited by his three daughters. The site of the castle, which is near the Swan inn, belongs now to the Duke of Bedford: it exhibits, in earth-works, for not a stone remains above ground, considerable traces of its former strength: the top of the keep has been levelled, and is used as a bowling-green.

THE house of Grey Friars at Bedford was founded by Mabel de Patshull, before the year 1311. The revenues of this monastery, when suppressed, were estimated only at 3l. 15s. 2d. clear yearly value. Its site, on which is now a

farm-house, to the N. W. of the town, was granted by King Henry VIII. to John Gostwick, master of the horse to that monarch, and is now the property of Lord Ashburnham. The few remains which still exist of the conventual buildings exhibit some vestiges of the cloisters: a barn, adjoining to the house, is said to have been the refectory.

On the south side of the river were two ancient hospitals, St. Leonard's and St. John's; the former, which was founded before the year 1303, had been converted to other uses before the Reformation, and is now a farm house belonging to the Duke of Bedford. St. John's, which was founded in 1280 by Robert de Paris, had before the reformation been consolidated with the parish church, dedicated to that saint; the same person being, as it still continues, master of the hospital and rector of the parish. The ancient hospital forms the rectory-house, and the rector is charged with the payment of small weekly allowances to certain paupers, who must be freemen of Bedford, and who, with the rector, form a body corporate, by the name of master and co-brethren of St. John's hospital.

The bridge over the Ouse, represented in the annexed View, is of great antiquity; there was formerly a free chapel on or adjoining it, dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr: two gateways, one of which served for the town gaol, were taken down in 1765 to render the passage over the bridge more commodious; and the bridge itself is about to be pulled down and rebuilt, among other projected improvements of the town.

Bedford has five parish churches; St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and St. Cuthbert's, on the North side, and St. Mary's, and St. John's, on the South side of the river. There was formerly a sixth, which stood on the void space opposite St. Mary's church, dedicated also to St. Peter, and called, by way of distinction, St. Peter's, Dunstaple; it was pulled down in 1545.

The old Independent meeting-house in Mill-lane was established in 1650; the first pastor was John Gifford, who had been a major in King Charles's army. The celebrated John Bunyan, author of the Pilgrim's Progress, was many years pastor of this congregation, among whom his memory is still held in great esteem; and the chair in which he used to sit is preserved as a relic in the vestry. In the same lane is a large meeting-house, built in 1772 by persons of the same persuasion, who at that time detached themselves from the old congregation.

The Moravians, or society of the *Unitas Fratrum*, have had an establishment at Bedford ever since the year 1745, they have a neat chapel, built in 1751; adjoining to it, are houses for the single brethren and sisters, who respectively live in community; in the sisters' house are about forty single women, who are employed in working tambour. The town-hall, or sessions-house, in which are held the assizes for the county, was built in 1753; it stands in the area before St. Paul's church. A new county gaol, towards the building of which the late Mr. Whitbread left a legacy of 500l. was completed in 1801; the prisoners sleep in separate rooms, and the system of solitary confinement is occasionally adopted: it stands on the Kettering road, to the N. W. of the town, and near it is the town gaol, which has also been recently rebuilt. In 1803, an act of parliament passed, enabling the inhabitants of Bedford to pave and light the town, to build a new bridge, to pull down the butchers' shambles, to build a new market-place, with a sessions-house above it, and a butter market on the site of the old gaol. This act has been partly carried into effect; the appearance of the town has been also much improved, by the building of neat brick houses on the site of 72 cottages which were burnt down by a fire which happened May 25, 1802, in consequence of a piece of a red-hot horse-shoe from a blacksmith's forge falling on the thatch of a house. A very liberal subscription was set on foot for the poor sufferers, which amounted nearly to the whole of their loss.

The house of industry at Bedford, a large and handsome brick building, to the North of the town, was begun in 1794, and completed in 1796; in the fitting it up, great attention has been paid to the health as well as the comfort and convenience of its inhabitants; a manufacture of flannel is carried on in it upon an extensive scale. The late Mr. Whitbread having bequeathed the sum of 4000l. towards the building of a general infirmary, and a further sum of 4000l. towards its endowment, his benevolent intentions have since been carried into effect, having been aided by contributions from the nobility and gentry of the county; the building, which is in the parish of St. Mary, was completed in 1803: it contains accommodations for 38 in-patients.

The free school at Bedford was founded by Sir Wm. Harper, alderman of London, for the instruction of children of the town in grammar and good manners.

The letters patent bear date 1552; the founder's deed 1566. The school-house was rebuilt by the trustees in 1767, when a statue of the founder was placed in the front. The warden and fellows of New College in Oxford are visitors, and appoint the master and usher, or second master; the salary of the former is now 26ol. per annum, with coals and candles; that of the second master, 16ol. with like perquisites: the writing-master has a salary of 8ol. per annum. Sir William Harper gave thirteen acres of land in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, for the endowment of this school, the marriage of poor maidens, and other charities; this land was long ago let on building leases, and now forms the site of Bedford-row, Lamb's Conduit, and other adjoining streets. The revenues of the charity have from time to time, as the leases have dropped in, been increased till they have amounted to the great income of nearly 6000l. per annum. In consequence of the great augmentation of this charity, parliament has been twice applied to, to interfere in the disposal of its revenues: By the last act, which passed in 1792, the salaries of the school-masters are settled as above-mentioned; three exhibitions of 40l. each are given to scholars of the free school; the sum of 800l. per annum is appropriated to the marriage of poor maidens; 300l. per annum for the support of 26 boys in a hospital or school of industry; 700l. per annum for apprentice-fees for 15 poor girls or boys, to be chosen by lot; and 100l. per annum to be given in sums of 5l. each, to girls going out to service. Almshouses for 10 poor men and 10 women have been built and endowed also, pursuant to this act; and the residue of the revenues is directed to be laid out in building and endowing more, as the funds shall be found adequate. The marriage portions are to be given in sums of 20l. each to forty poor maidens of Bedford, of good fame and reputation, not under sixteen years of age, and not exceeding fifty; they are to be chosen by lot, and must marry within two months after drawing the fortunate lots, otherwise they forfeit their portions. The men to whom they are to be married must not be vagrants, or persons of bad fame or reputation.

VIEW OF ST. PAUL'S, BEDFORD.

On or near the site of this church was in ancient times a college of prebendaries, changed afterwards into canons regular by Rohesia de Beauchamp; her son Simon removed these canons, and gave them a new site for their convent, called Newenham, about a mile from Bedford, in the neighbouring parish of Goldington. King John pulled down the collegiate church of St. Paul. Leland says, that some of the prebendal houses remained in his time at Bedford, notwithstanding their stalls had been removed to Lincoln; an ancient gothic building, not far from St. Paul's church, now used as a brewery, and held under the church of Lincoln, is supposed to be a part of one of these houses.

In the South chancel of St. Paul's church is the tomb of Sir Wm. Harper, the munificent founder of the free school at Bedford, some time alderman of London, who died in 1574; and near it, against the east wall, is a modern monument, with medallions of Sir Wm. Harper and his lady, put up by the trustees of the Harper charity, in 1767, with an inscription recording their benefactions. On the South wall of the nave is painted a recumbent figure of King Charles the First, under an open canopy, by the side of which are inscribed some very indifferent verses, alluding to his trial and execution. The pulpit is of stone, ornamented with gilt tracery on a blue ground. In the church-yard is the tomb of a couple, Shadrach and Patience Johnson, who had 24 children. The benefice of this church is an endowed vicarage, in the gift of Lord Carteret. Thomas Christie, Esq. being possessed of the great tithes, gave them in 1697 to the vicar and his successors, charged with the payment of 1s. each to eight poor persons in some almshouses at Bedford, which he had built in his life-time. The parish of St. Paul was inclosed by act of parliament in 1795, when an allotment was made in lieu of tithes.

VIEW OF DUNSTAPLE PRIORY.

DUNSTAPLE Priory was founded about the year 1131, by King Henry I. for Black Canons. That monarch had a palace at Dunstaple, which King John, in 1204, gave to the Prior and Convent, who, upon occasion of all future royal visits, accommodated the King and his suit within their own walls. It appears by the chronicle of Dunstaple, that King Henry III. frequently honoured the convent with his presence; in 1247 he was there with his Queen, Prince Edward, and Princess Margaret, upon which occasion the Prior presented their Majesties with a gilt cup, and the Prince and Princess with a gold buckle each; in 1265 the King and Queen, with Cardinal Ottoboni, the Pope's legate, and Simon Montfort, Earl of Leicester, made some stay at the Priory. When the corpse of Queen Eleanor was deposited one night at the Priory in 1290, two bawdekins, or precious cloths, were given to the convent, and 120 pounds weight of wax. As it passed through the town the bier stopped in the middle of the market place, whilst the chancellor and nobility marked out a proper spot for the erection of a cross, the Prior assisting at the ceremony, and sprinkling the ground with holy water; this cross was demolished during the civil war in the seventeenth century.

THE Priors of Dunstaple enjoyed very extensive liberties and privileges. They had the power of life and death, and sat with the King's justices itinerant, who, on their circuit, always came to Dunstaple, for the purpose of trying such offences as had been committed within the jurisdiction of the town. They had more than one gaol, for it appears by the Chronicle of Dunstaple, that their principal gaol was rebuilt in 1295, and they had a gallows at a place without the town, called Edescote. The revenues of the priory at its dissolution were estimated at 344l. 13s. 3d. clear yearly value. The last Prior was Gervase Markham, who took an active part in the proceedings relative to the divorce between King Henry VIII. and Catherine of Arragon, his queen; the commissioners sat at Dunstaple Priory, and the sentence of divorce was pronounced by Archbishop Cranmer, on the 23d of May, 1533, in the Chapel of our Lady there. Prior Markham, after the dissolution of the convent, had a pension of 60l. per annum; he died in the month of September, 1561, and was buried at Dunstaple, as appears by the parish register. The site of the Priory, which was granted in 1554 to Dr. Leonard Chamberlayne, is now the property and residence of Col. Maddison. The only remains of the conventual buildings (excepting what is now the parish church) are some rooms with vaulted and groined stone roofs; one of them has been converted into a parlour. The present parish church of Dunstaple, which contains only the nave of the conventual church, exhibits various styles of architecture; the inside is chiefly Saxon, and undoubtedly part of the original structure. The stone gallery at the West end, now hidden by the organ loft, has pointed arches. The West front exhibited in the annexed View, is decorated with niches of the early Gothic architecture. The great Western door has a fine semicircular arch, which has been very richly ornamented with foliage, grotesque heads, &c. neatly cut in Totternhoe stone, now much mutilated. It is said, that King Henry VIII. intended to establish a cathedral at Dunstaple, of which Dr. Day was to be the first Bishop, and that, when the design was laid aside, a great part of the conventual church was pulled down.

VIEW OF ELSTOW ABBEY.*

ELSTOW Abbey was founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, by Judith, Countess of Huntingdon, for Benedictine Nuns, being dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, and St. Helen; its revenues, when dissolved, were estimated at 284l. 12s. 11¾d. clear yearly value. The site was granted in 1553 to Sir Humphrey Ratcliffe (a younger brother of the Earl of Sussex) who resided in the Abbey House, and died in 1566, as appears by his monument over the altar in Elstow church. In the reign of Charles the First, and perhaps at an earlier period, it belonged to the family of Hillersdon, who built a large mansion adjoining to the church, now in ruins, the greater part of it having been pulled down a few years ago. The site of the Abbey, with the manor, which belonged also to the convent, is now the property of Samuel Whitbread, Esq. M. P. whose father purchased it in 1792 of the daughter of the late Mr. Hillersdon.

THERE are very few remains of the conventual buildings, excepting the church, (now the parish church) which retains considerable traces of the original structure. The North door is of Saxon architecture; some of the columns are square and very massy, and most of the arches circular. At the South-west corner of the church is a small building with a vaulted roof, supported in the center by an octagonal fluted column, probably a vestibule. In the South aisle of the chancel is the tomb (with her effigies engraved on brass) of Elizabeth Harvey, the last Abbess of Elstow, placed there in her lifetime, with blank spaces for the dates: as she survived the dissolution of the Abbey, it is probable that her body never reached its intended place of sepulture. Some of the Nuns, who died after the reformation, were buried in St. Mary's church, at Bedford.

JOHN BUNYAN, author of the celebrated theological romance, called the Pilgrim's Progress, was a native of the village of Elstow.

* *The Engraver has, by Mistake, called it Elstow Priory.*

VIEW OF HAROLD.

THE little town of Harold has been overlooked by most writers who have enumerated the market towns of this county. Its market, indeed, which is on Thursday, is so insignificant that it scarcely deserves the name. The number of houses in Harold in 1801 was 155, that of inhabitants 763. In the year 1150 Sampson Le Fort founded a priory at this place in honour of St. Peter for canons and nuns of the order of St. Nicholas, of Arrouasia; but it was afterwards inhabited by a prioress and a few nuns, of the order of St. Austin. Its revenues, when suppressed among the smaller monasteries, were estimated at 40l. 18s. 2d. clear yearly value; the site is now a farm-house. The only part of the conventual building which remains is the refectory, now a barn, known by the name of the Hall-barn.

IN the parish church, among others, is the tomb of Mrs. Mead, widow of Dr. Mead, the celebrated physician, who resided at a large house near the church, which was inherited by his son. It is now the seat of Robert Garstin, Esq. There is a bridge over the Ouse at Harold, with a long causeway. The annexed View was taken from the church-yard at Chillington, an adjoining village, which commands a fine prospect, in which Harold, Odell castle, and the winding of the Ouse, are the prominent features.

VIEW OF THE MARKET CROSS AT LEIGHTON-BUSARD.

THIS beautiful Market Cross, which is of a pentagonal form, is adorned with the figures of Kings, &c. Nothing is known of its origin. It is not improbable that it might have been erected by one of the Abbesses of Fontevralt, to which monastery the manor, together with the market, belonged from the reign of Henry II. till the year 1411. The market is of great antiquity, and was of so much consequence at the time of the Norman survey, that the tolls were then valued at 7l. per annum,---a very considerable sum according to the comparative value of money. Leighton market, which is held on Tuesday, is now chiefly noted for its abundant supply of suckling-calves, which are bought up by the London dealers.

VIEW OF ODELL CHURCH.

ODELL Church exhibits a handsome specimen of that style of architecture which prevailed toward the latter part of the fifteenth century; it contains some monuments of the Alston family, but none which merit particular description. Odell castle, near the church, has long been the property and residence of the Alstons, whose ancestor was created a baronet in 1642. It was originally the seat of the barons Wahull, or Wodhull, which was the ancient name of the village; this barony was of considerable extent, including several manors in the counties of Bedford, Northampton, and Buckingham. The family of Wahull though not summoned to Parliament after the reign of Edward I. continued in the male line till the reign of Henry VIII. when their estates passed by a female heir to the Chetwodes. Odell castle was in ruins so early as the reign of Henry VIII. The present mansion, which stands upon the site, and retains the same name, was in great part rebuilt by Lady Wolstenholme, mother of Sir Thomas Alston, who died in 1728; it commands a beautiful view over the river Ouse and the adjacent country. Odell had anciently a charter for a market, but it appears to have been of short continuance. In the year 1556 Sir Oswald Butler, rector of Odell, did penance in the parish church, by order of Cardinal Pole, for cohabiting with his own wife.

VIEW OF ABINGDON.

THIS ancient town is situated at the conflux of the Ock and the Thames, 56 miles from London, on the road to Cirencester; it was incorporated by Queen Mary, and is governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and nine aldermen. This Queen granted them also the privilege of sending one member to Parliament; the right of election is deemed to be in the inhabitants at large not receiving alms. Abingdon has two weekly markets, Mondays and Fridays; the first is a great mart for corn; the Friday's market is principally for the delivery of corn sold on the preceding Monday. There are six annual fairs, the firstMonday in Lent, St. Mark, O. S., June 20, St. James, O. S. the Monday after Michaelmas-day, and December 11. The market-house, a large freestone building, which forms a conspicuous object in the annexed View, was erected about the year 1710; it supports a town-hall, in which are held the summer assizes for the county, the Easter, and occasionally the Michaelmas, sessions. The clothing manufacture, which flourished formerly at Abingdon, seems to have declined about the time of the Reformation; soon after which, in compassion to the decayed state of the town, Queen Mary gave them a charter of incorporation, with other privileges and immunities. Of late years the principal employment of the poor has been in dressing hemp and making sacking. A great trade is carried on in malt for the London market. In 1801 this town contained 889 houses, and 4,356 inhabitants.

THE ancient name of this town was Seovechesham, or Seusham, described by the monkish writers as a large and wealthy city, which was, in very early times, the residence of the Saxon Kings. It had long ceased to be a royal residence, and had obtained the name of Abingdon, when Offa, King of the Mercians and West Saxons, admiring the situation, built a palace on a spot called the Isle of Andersey, in which he occasionally resided, as did his son and successor, Egfrid. After a short interval, the site of this palace, which had been purchased of the monks of Abingdon, was again granted to the convent. This celebrated monastery, whose abbot was mitred, had been founded in the seventh century, during the reign of Centwin, King of the West Saxons, by one of his viceroys; Centwin's successor gave the monks the town of Seovescham, and commanded, that it should in future be called Abbendon (or Abingdon). This monastery was destroyed by the Danes, and restored by King Edred and St. Ethelwold, the abbot. At the time of the Norman survey the abbot and convent had 30 manors in Berkshire, which they kept in their own hands, besides many others, which were held under them as lords of the fee. Our monarchs of the Norman line occasionally held their court at Abingdon, being lodged within the walls of the convent. William the Conqueror, after keeping his Easter there in 1084, left his younger son, Henry, who for his learning afterwards obtained the appellation of Beauclerk, to be educated in the monastery, under the inspection of Robert D'Oilly. The clear yearly rental of the Abbey at the time of its dissolution was 1876l. 10s. 9d. Thomas Penthecost, the last abbot, for his ready compliance with the King's wishes, was rewarded with a pension of 200l. per annum, and had a grant for life of Cumner-park, which had been his country seat whilst abbot. Leland describes this monastery as a most magnificent pile of building, and Camden speaks of its ruins as exhibiting, in his time, evident marks of its former grandeur. The only part now entire is the abbey gate-way, which is used as a gaol; some remnants of the abbey may be seen among the buildings occupied as a brewery by Mr. Child.

THERE was in ancient times a nunnery also at Abingdon, founded by a sister of King Ceadwall, not long after the foundation of the abbey; but it was of short duration: it was dedicated to St. Helen, and is supposed to have stood on or near the site of St. Helen's church.

IN the early part of the civil war, in the seventeenth century, Abingdon was one of the royal garrisons, but was not long maintained as a place of strength, though it was occasionally the head quarters of the King's army; the principal body of his infantry being there in the month of May, 1644,

quitted the town on the approach of the Earl of Essex with his army. Abingdon then became a garrison for the Parliament, and continued in their possession till the end of the war, notwithstanding several attempts were made by the royal party to regain it.

THERE are two parish churches in Abingdon, St. Nicholas's, at which divine service is now only occasionally performed, and St. Helen's, a spacious gothic structure, with a handsome spire. In this church is the tomb of Geffrey Barbour, a great benefactor to the town, who died in 1417; that of John Royse, founder of the grammar-school, who died in 1571; and a tablet, with the portrait of Mr. William Lee, aged 92, who was 53 years one of the principal burgesses of Abingdon, five times mayor, and lived to see "Issue from his loyns 200, lacking but three."

THERE is an old established meeting-house for the Presbyterians, of which George Benson, an eminent divine of that persuasion, was some time minister, and meeting-houses for the Anabaptists and Quakers. Among the eminent persons to whom Abingdon has given birth, may be reckoned Sir John Mason, a distinguished statesman in the reign of Queen Mary, and a great benefactor to his native town; Sir Thomas Smith, secretary of the latin tongue to King James I.; and Dr. Newcome, the late primate of Ireland, a distinguished theologian, whose father was vicar of St. Helen's. At a very early period there was a brotherhood, or fraternity, in the town of Abingdon, who had erected a very handsome rood, or cross, in the church of St. Helen's, and called themselves Brethren of the Holy Cross. To the exertions of this community the town was indebted for some of its greatest ornaments, particularly (as is supposed) for their beautiful market cross, which was destroyed by Waller's army in 1644, and many splendid decorations, of which there are yet some remains, in the church of St. Helen's. That work of public utility, which proved of such singular benefit to Abingdon, the building of Burford and Culham bridges, near the town on the road to London, owed its origin also to the same fraternity. These bridges were built in the year 1416. The greatest pecuniary benefactor to this work was Jeffrey Barbour. Before this time there was an inconvenient ferry over the river, and the road was subject to very dangerous inundations: the bridges were made a free passage for ever by Act of Parliament in 1430. Among other works of benevolence which were performed by the Brethren of the Holy Cross was the foundation of a hospital, which is still existing in St. Helen's church-yard. When the fraternity was dissolved at the reformation, Sir John Mason procured a new charter of foundation for this hospital, which was then, by the name of Christ's Hospital, placed under the management of certain governors, who were made a corporate body, and endowed with most of the lands which had belonged to the brethren of the Holy Cross: thirteen persons are maintained in this ancient hospital, and in the year 1718 a new building was erected, out of the hospital funds, for the reception of 18 additional pensioners.

ANOTHER ancient hospital, (spoken of by Leland) which stood near the West gate, had been removed into a place called the Vineyard, and was rebuilt in 1801, at the joint expence of the corporation and Mr. Bedwell. A third ancient hospital, situated near St. Helen's church, was rebuilt out of the funds of Christ's hospital in 1799. There is an almshouse also in St. Helen's churchyard, built and endowed by Mr. Twitty, in 1707.

THE freeschool at Abingdon was founded by John Royse in 1563. Six scholarships and seven fellowships in Pembroke College, Oxford, are supplied from Abingdon school, pursuant to the will of Thomas Teasdale, who was the first scholar on Royse's foundation, and is esteemed joint-founder of that college.

VIEW OF MAIDENHEAD BRIDGE.

THIS bridge is supposed to have been first built in the thirteenth century, before which time the road which now passes through Maidenhead went through Burnham and Cookham, both anciently market towns, crossing the Thames at Babham-ferry, opposite to which is still to be seen a hollow way, now almost overgrown, leading up Cliefden-hill. The ancient name of Maidenhead was South Ealington, or Elyngton; originally, as is supposed, a small hamlet which rose to consequence after it became a considerable thoroughfare. It seems to have been first recognized as a town about the year 1352, when the principal inhabitants were incorporated into a gild, and called the brothers and sisters of Maidenhithe; which name seems to have been transferred from the bridge to the town, and to have been derived from the great *hithe*, or wharf, which is spoken of by old writers, as adjoining to the bridge. The present structure was began in 1772 from a design by Sir Robert Taylor: one of the piers divides the counties of Berks and Buckingham.

VIEW OF NEWBURY.

THIS town, anciently called Uluritone, took its present name from a castle built by the Earls of Perch, who were lords of the manor in the twelfth century. It lies on the road to Bath, at the distance of 56 miles from Hyde Park Corner. The market, which has been held from time immemorial, is on Thursday. The fair-days are Holy Thursday, July 5, September 4, and November 8; besides which there is a large statute-fair for hiring servants on the first Thursday after the 10th of October. Newbury sent members to parliament in the reign of Edward I. but has long ceased to be a parliamentary borough. It was incorporated by Queen Elizabeth in 1586; the corporation consists of a mayor, high-steward, recorder, six aldermen, and twenty-four capital burgesses. The town is well built, and the streets spacious. Over the old market house, an ancient timber building, are a gaol and the town hall, in which the Easter sessions for the county, and the public meetings of the corporation are held; over the new market-house is an assembly room, sometimes called the new Town-hall. Newbury was formerly celebrated for its clothing manufacture, which, though much declined, had not been wholly discontinued till of late years. The present number of houses (exclusive of those in the tithing of Speenhamland, which adjoins the town, and is in the parish of Spene) is about 970; that of the inhabitants about 4,280.

THE only mention of Newbury in history, till the memorable æra of the civil war between king Charles and his Parliament, is in the reign of King Stephen, when its castle was taken by assault by that monarch in the year 1152. In the civil war two battles were fought near this town, in both of which the king commanded in person, the Earl of Essex being at the head of the parliamentary army. In the first, which happened on the 18th of September, 1643, there fell on the king's side, the Earls of Carnarvon and Sunderland, and the accomplished Lord Falkland; the second battle took place on the 27th October 1644: it is remarkable that both were fought with such doubtful success that each party claimed the victory; the one by keeping possession of the field, the other by having accomplished the purpose for which they

engaged. In the first instance this was effected by the Earl of Essex, whose object was to march with his army to London; in the second, by the king, who succeeded in his intention of relieving Donnington castle, then besieged by the parliamentry army.

The parish church of Newbury is a handsome structure, said to have been built principally at the expence of John Winchcombe, a wealthy clothier of this town, commonly known by the name of Jack of Newbury. This celebrated person, who died in the year 1519, lies buried within its walls, where a brass plate is to be seen, inscribed to his memory, by the name of John Smallwood, alias Wynchcombe. He is said to have kept 100 looms in his own house, and to have marched at the head of 100 of his workmen in the expedition against Scotland, which was terminated by the battle of Flodden-field. It is said also that he entertained King Henry VIII. and his Queen Catherine of Arragon at his house in Newbury: but all the anecdotes relating to this celebrated person must be received with caution, as they appear (though related by Fuller) to have been taken originally from a small pamphlet, called the Life of Jack of Newbury, which was evidently written about a hundred years after his death, and abounds with improbabilities and anachronisms. A portrait, which hangs in one of the rooms adjoining the new Town-hall, the original of which is at Bucklebury, the country seat of the Winchcombes, is erroneously called Jack of Newbury; when in fact it is that of his son John Winchcombe, the younger, who died in 1557. This portrait has been copied for the sign of Jack of Newbury, at an Inn, which is said to stand on the site of his dwelling house. A descendant of John Winchcombe was created a baronet. The family which is now extinct was represented by the late Winchcombe Henry Hartly, Esq. whose son, a minor, inherited Bucklebury, and other estates of the Winchcombes.

The ancient hospital of St. Bartholomew, at Newbury, is said to have been founded by King John; it was anciently under the government of a master, warden, or prior: it is now, under Queen Elizabeth's charter, vested in the corporation, who give an allowance of 3s. 6d. a week each, to the 12 pensioners who inhabit it, besides other perquisites, among which is 5s. each on St. Bartholomew's day, arising from the tolls of a fair held in an adjoining meadow. Opposite this hospital is an almshouse, founded by Sir Jemmet Raymond, for six poor men and six women. In the year 1795 twelve very neat and commodious almshouses were built, pursuant to the will of John Kimber, Esq. at the expence of nearly 2000l. for six poor men and six women, who receive 5s. a week each, and are found fuel and clothes. The pensioners in the other almshouses in Newbury, of which there are several with small endowments, have had their allowance increased to 3s. 6d. a week each, by the benefaction of Mr. Kimber.

VIEW OF READING,

Reading, of which the annexed plate exhibits a distant view, is the most populous town in the county of Berks, containing nearly 10,000 inhabitants. It is generally considered as the shire-town, although the assizes are held alternately at Abingdon. Reading is a borough by prescription, having sent representatives to Parliament from the time of the earliest records; the right of election is vested in the inhabitants paying scot and lot. King Henry VIII. gave this town a charter of incorporation; his successors have at various times altered the style of the body corporate, and granted them sundry privileges and immunities; the corporation now consists of a mayor, 12 aldermen, 12 assistants, a steward, recorder, chamberlain, and other officers. Reading has a great corn market on Saturdays, and a smaller market on Wednesdays, for butchers' meat and other provisions. There are four annual fairs, February 2, May 1, July 25, and September 21. The clothing manufacture was in ancient times carried on at Reading to a great extent; it declined during the reign of

made a very successful sally, the whole army rose up from before the walls, and marched in different directions. When the King came to Newbury, he knighted the governor for his good service. During the second battle of Newbury, Sir John Boys secured the King's artillery under the castle walls. After the battle, the King being gone with his army to Oxford, the Earl of Essex, with his whole force, besieged Donnington castle, but with no better success than others had done, and he had given over the attempt before the King returned thither from Oxford; which he did purposely for its relief, on the 4th of November. It was then revictualled without opposition, and the King slept that night in the castle, with his army around him. The only part of the castle that now remains, is a gateway which has two towers; probably the walls had received so much injury that they were incapable of repair. The site of Donnington castle passed, by a female heir, from the Packers to the Hartleys, and is now the property of Winchcombe Henry Howard Hartley, a minor, son of the late Winchcombe Henry Hartley, Esq. who was one of the representatives for the county of Berks.

VIEW OF WALLINGFORD.

THIS ancient borough and market town lies on the banks of the Thames, 46 miles from London. The market days are Tuesday and Friday: the Tuesday's market is very inconsiderable. There are four annual fairs, the Tuesday before Easter, Midsummer-day, old Michaelmas-day, and December 17; but the only one which is much resorted to is that on Michaelmas-day, which is principally for hiring servants. Wallingford has from time immemorial sent two members to Parliament; the right of election is vested in the corporation and the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The town was incorporated by King James I.; the corporation consists of a mayor and five aldermen, a town-clerk and other officers, who are chosen out of 18 burgesses. The town contains at present about 360 houses, and about 1,750 inhabitants; about the time of the Norman Conquest the number of houses was 304, as appears from the survey of domesday. In the fifteenth century, it is said to have experienced great decay and depopulation, partly occasioned by a great plague, and partly by the building of Culham and Burford bridges, when the great road from London into Gloucestershire and South Wales, which had before passed through Wallingford, was diverted into another course.

WALLINGFORD is supposed to have been a Roman town, and several coins of that nation have been found there; but its ancient name is unknown. The town was destroyed by the Danes in 1006, but was soon afterwards rebuilt. King William the Conqueror received the submission of the English nobility at this place before he marched his army to London. About the year 1067 his favourite general, Robert Doyly, built a strong castle at Wallingford, which, in the early part of the ensuing century, was bravely defended by his son-in-law, Brien Fitz-Count, who held it against King Stephen for the Empress Maud, to whom it afforded a secure retreat when she fled from the garrison at Oxford, eluding observation, as our historians tell us, by passing along the river, then frozen over, in white garments, the ground being at the same time covered with snow. The peace which afterwards ensued between Stephen and his successor, then Duke of Normandy, was concluded before the walls of Wallingford. The castle was, in the succeeding reigns, frequently visited by the monarch and his court, and the scene of many splendid solemnities. In the time of King Henry III. and King Edward I. the honour and castle belonged, by royal grant, to the Earls of Cornwall. When the title of Duke of Cornwall was given

to the King's eldest son, the honour of Wallingford was annexed, by Act of Parliament, to that Duchy; but by a subsequent Act, was again detached from it, and annexed to the honour of Ewelm, to which Wallingford castle is still an appendage. Before the passing of the first mentioned Act, Wallingford castle was granted to the Queen of Edward II. who kept her court in it with great splendour, whilst her unfortunate husband was a prisoner at Kenilworth. During the civil war between King Charles I. and his Parliament, Wallingford castle was esteemed one of the most important of the King's fortresses, and it continued in his possession till towards the close of the war, not being surrendered till after his cause had long became desperate. The castle was demolished pursuant to an order of council, bearing date November 18, 1652; there is now scarcely a stone of it remaining.

WITHIN the walls of Wallingford castle was an ancient college, consisting of a dean and prebendaries; their revenues were greatly augmented by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who has been generally deemed the founder; but there are records which prove its existence before his time. When it was dissolved, in the first year of Edward VIth's reign, its income was estimated at 147l. 8s. 0½d. clear yearly value. The site was granted, in 1548, to Michael Stanhope and John Bellew, of whom it was purchased, the same year, by the Dean and Canons of Christ Church College, in Oxford, as a place of retirement for themselves and the students of that society in time of sickness. The site and what remains of the building, being principally two tenements, called the Priests' and the Clerks' Lodgings, are held on lease under the college; the former is inhabited only by cottagers.

WITHIN the West gate of the town was a convent of Benedictine Monks, founded by Paul, Abbot of St. Albans. It was suppressed among the smaller monasteries in 1535, by Cardinal Wolsey, who procured a grant of it, intending to bestow it on the new college, which he was then building at Oxford; but on his attainder it fell to the Crown, and was granted in 1547 to John Norris, Esq. The site is now a farm-house.

JUST without the South gate was an ancient hospital for poor men and women, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It seems to have been suppressed at the general dissolution of religious houses.

IT has been said, that there were anciently fourteen parish churches in Wallingford; but it does not appear that more than eleven can be traced from records, and some of these were consolidated at a very early period, on account of their poverty and the smallness of the parishes; there are now only three, St. Mary's, St. Leonard's, and St. Peter's. All Saint's church was pulled down in 1643, there is no memory of the existence of the others, but the sites of some of them are known. Those which remain contain nothing that is remarkable; St. Leonard's and St. Peter's were laid in ruins during the siege of Wallingford in 1646; St. Leonard's was repaired and opened for divine service about the year 1704. St. Peter's continued in ruins till the present reign; it was rebuilt principally at the instance and by the exertions of the celebrated Sir William Blackstone, who lies buried in the chancel; he was many years an inhabitant of this town, which he represented in Parliament. The spire, which forms a conspicuous object in the annexed view, was built at his expence, and, as it is said, from a design of his own: it was finished in 1777. The adjoining bridge is a very ancient structure, consisting of nineteen arches. The free-school at Wallingford was founded in 1659, by Walter Bigg, Alderman of London, who endowed it with a salary of 10l. per annum for the master. An almshouse for six poor people was founded, about the year 1687, by Mr. William Aungear, and Mary, his sister: it is but slenderly endowed.

VIEW OF WINDSOR CASTLE.

ON the spot where this magnificent fabrick now stands, William the Conqueror first built a castle, which seems to have been intended merely for the purpose of a fortress, for which, by its situation, it was well adapted. King Henry I. having enlarged the castle "with many fair buildings" in the year 1110, first removed thither his court, which, during his residence in that neighbourhood, he had before kept at Old Windsor. His immediate successors occasionally resided at Windsor and sometimes held parliaments there. The castle, which as to its importance was esteemed the second fortress in the kingdom, was variously occupied during the contentions between the discontented barons and their monarch. To the third Edward, who, from having been born at this place, was called Edward of Windsor, the castle is chiefly indebted for its present magnificence. This great work was begun about the year 1350, under the superintendance of William of Wickham, bishop of Winchester, and before 1373 the whole was completed, comprizing the King's Palace, the Great Hall of St. George, the Lodgings on the East and South side of the upper ward, the Round Tower, the Chapel of St. George, the Canons' Houses, and the whole circumference of the walls, with the towers and gates. During the civil war in the seventeenth century, Windsor was garrisoned by the parliament, and remained in their hands till its fatal conclusion. The unfortunate King Charles I. was a prisoner in the castle at the close of the year 1648; and, as Heath expresses it, kept his last sorrowful Christmas there. After the restoration, King Charles II. finding the buildings of the castle much dilapidated through plunder and neglect, caused it to be thoroughly repaired and richly furnished. His present majesty, who has always shewn himself partial to this beautiful spot, has lately made great alterations in the buildings of the castle, under the superintendance of Mr. Wyatt, particularly by removing the windows which had been placed in the upper ward, in the reign of Charles II. and restoring it as nearly as possible to its original form. The Chapel of the Castle and other parts of the buildings are about to be fitted up in the same style.

WINDSOR Castle consists of two courts or wards, between which is the keep or round tower, sometimes called the middle ward. The upper court contains on the North side the state apartments and chapel, and the Hall of St. George. The East and South sides have been lately fitted up for the residence of their Majesties and the Royal family. The state apartments contain a valuable collection of pictures, among which are the beauties of King Charles the Second's court, and other interesting portraits. The Cartoons of Raphael have lately been removed back to Hampton Court, where they were originally placed. St. George's Hall, which was built by King Edward III. as a refectory for the Knights Companions of the Garter, is 108 feet in length; the ceiling and walls, which were painted by Verrio, exhibit some of the glorious actions in which the warlike founder and his son, Edward the Black Prince, bore so conspicuous a share. The order of the garter was founded by King Edward in the year 1349, and its first companions were those brave noblemen, or knights of great military prowess, who had served with their monarch in the wars of France. The story of its owing its origin to the trivial circumstance of the Countess of Salisbury dropping her garter at a ball, has been exploded by Ashmole and other writers, who have treated largely on the subject. In the early days of the Order the Festival of St. George was invariably kept with great solemnity at Windsor, and the Knights Companions, when the Sovereign was present, dined with him in the great Hall.

BETWEEN the two wards of Windsor Castle, in what is sometimes called the middle ward, stands the keep or round tower, which is the lodging of the governor of the castle. A flight of 100 stone steps leads to the governor's apartments, which are spacious and handsome, and command a most beautiful and extensive prospect over the interesting and picturesque scenes of the adjacent country. In this tower is a guard-room, or magazine of arms, in which are preserved some curious specimens of ancient musquets, pikes, and bandoleers. The circumference of the whole castle, according to Batty Langley's measure-

ment, is 4,180 feet, the length from East to West 1480 feet, and the area, exclusive of the Terrace walks, about 12 acres.

The Great Park, from whence the View of the Castle is taken, contained 3,800 acres, till his present Majesty disparked 2000 acres, devoting them to the laudable purpose of agricultural experiments. The park still maintains the same stock of deer which it did when it was of so much greater extent; the principal entrance leads to a noble avenue of elms, nearly three miles in length. The ranger's lodge was held, together with the office, by the late Duke of Cumberland, and his illustrious predecessor in that title.

VIEW OF WINDSOR TERRACE.

THE great Terrace, which was originally made by Queen Elizabeth, was at first attached only to the North side of the castle. King Charles II. extended it along the East and South sides. The whole length is now 1,870 feet, forming the noblest walk of the kind in Europe, as well as the most interesting in point of situation. It is customary with their present Majesties to have a public promenade on this Terrace on Sunday evenings during the summer Season, which is attended by numerous visitors, who come thither either for the purpose of paying their respects, or gratifying themselves with a sight of their Majesties and their august family. The part of the Castle, exhibited in the annexed View, contains the upper part of the gateway between the upper and the lower ward; the North Tower of which forms the West end of what is called Queen Elizabeth's Gallery.

VIEW OF ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, AT WINDSOR.

THIS splendid fabrick was built during the reigns of Edward IV. Henry VII. and Henry VIII. on the site of a former chapel, which had been erected by King Edward III. and dedicated to the same Saint. The present structure owes its chief embellishments to the good taste of Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, and Sir Reginald Bray, Prime Minister to King Henry VII. The cognizance of the latter, who was a liberal contributor to the work, is to be seen with other arms and cognizances, frequently repeated on the beautiful roof of the choir, which was erected in 1508. The stalls of the Knights-Companions of the Garter, who, on great solemnities, attend divine service in the chapel, are very richly carved in wood, and exhibit the names and arms of the several illustrious and noble persons by whom they have been respectively filled. The Altar-piece, which represents the Last Supper, is by Mr. West, from whose designs the East window, representing the Resurrection of our Saviour, was executed in stained glass, by Jarvis and Forest, and put up in the year 1788. A window, by the same artists, representing the Angels appearing to our Saviour, is placed at the East end of the South aisle. These splendid embellishments the building owes to the provident care of his present Majesty, who was himself a liberal contributor to them, and has expended large sums in procuring the whole of this beautiful structure to be thoroughly repaired and ornamented. The great West window, seen in the annexed view, exhibits a singularly fine specimen of the florid style of Gothic architecture. It is at present filled with ancient stained glass, collected from various parts of the chapel, and arranged under the superintendance of Dr. Lockman, in 1774; but it is intended to be decorated with the subject of the Crucifixion, now executing by Forest, from a design of Mr. West.

IN St. George's Chapel are deposited the remains of the unfortunate monarch Henry VI., his more successful rival Edward IV., King Henry VIII., and the unhappy victim of civil commotion, King Charles I. The tomb of King Edward IV., being the only royal monument to be seen here, is of wrought iron, resembling a pair of gates between two gothic towers.

IN the South aisle are the Lincoln chapel, the Oxenbridge chapel, the Aldworth chapel, built by Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and Wells; the Bray chapel, founded by Sir Reginald Bray, who lies there interred, distinguished for the beautiful screen by which it is separated from the aisle, and the Beaufort chapel. In the Lincoln chapel is the monument of Edward, Earl of Lincoln, Lord High Admiral of England, who died in 1584; in the Beaufort chapel, those of the founder, Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester, who died in 1526, and of the first Duke of Beaufort.

IN the North aisle are St. Stephen's, the Rutland, and Urswick's chapels. In the Rutland chapel is the monument of George, Lord Roos, and the effigies in brass of the founder, Sir Thomas St. Leger, and his Lady, Anne, Duchess of Exeter, sister to King Edward IV. in their surcoats.

AMONG the celebrated persons who lie buried in this fabrick, some without any memorial, and others with no other monument than a plain stone slab, are Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, Bishop Beauchamp, Bishop King, Francis Junius the learned Critic, Dr. Waterland, Dr. Samuel Pratt, and other eminent Divines.

AT the East end of St. George's Chapel is an edifice, called the Tomb-House, built by King Henry VII. and intended by him for his place of sepulture, before he erected that magnificent structure adjoining Westminster Abbey, which goes by his name. Cardinal Wolsey, having obtained a grant of this building, began to erect in it a most sumptuous monument for himself, which was not completed at the time of his disgrace. This unfinished monument was destroyed in the civil war. King James II. fitted up the Tomb-house as a chapel for the celebration of divine service according to the rites of the Roman Catholic religion. Since his reign it had been suffered to go to

decay, till the year 1800, when his Majesty gave orders that it should undergo a thorough repair, intending it as a place of interment for his family: considerable progress has been made in the works, the decayed battlements and other external ornaments having been completely restored.

THERE had been a collegiate chapel at Windsor from the time of King Henry I. King Edward III. augmented the number of canons, granted them a proportional increase of endowment, and established a charitable institution for the maintenance of 26 poor Knights, or almsknights, being such persons as, having deserved well of their country by military service, had fallen into poverty. Five others were added in the reign of Charles I. by the benefactions of Sir Peter Le Maire and Sir Francis Crane; and their number has been recently augmented by the addition of seven more, pursuant to the will of Samuel Travers, who died in 1724. These last are to be lieutenants of the navy. The establishment of the college, as settled in 1351, consisted of a warden, twelve secular canons, thirteen priests, or vicars, four clerks, and six choristers. The title of warden was changed for that of dean, in the reign of Edward IV. The college now consists of a dean, twelve canons, seven minor canons, twelve lay clerks, one of whom is usually the organist, and ten choristers. The dean and canons' lodgings are situated in the lower ward, behind St. George's Chapel; those of the canons are within a cloister, called the Canons' Cloister. The apartments of the minor canons, clerks, and other officers of the college, are at the West end of St. George's Chapel; the buildings are in a circular form, supposed to be in allusion to the fetlock, a device of King Edward IV. On the South side of the lower ward are the houses of the poor knights of the original foundation, and those founded by Sir Francis Crane. The houses of Mr. Travers's knights are not within the castle walls.

VIEW OF WINDSOR CASTLE AND TOWN.

THE town of Windsor, seen in the annexed view, first rose to consequence on the decay of Old Windsor, occasioned by the removal of the royal residence in the reign of Henry I. It was declared a free borough in 1276 by King Edward I. who granted the burgesses a mercatorial gild, and various other privileges. They were first made a corporate body by King Edward IV. The corporation, pursuant to a charter of King Charles II. now consists of a mayor, thirteen benchers, ten of whom are aldermen, and about sixteen other members. Two of the junior members are annually chosen bailiffs. The officers of the corporation are a high steward, under steward, and common clerk. The market day is Saturday. The annual fairs are Easter Tuesday, July 5, and October 25. The guild-hall, or town-house, which was built in 1686, is ornamented with statues of Queen Anne and her royal consort, Prince George of Denmark. Within are portraits of the King and Queens of England from Charles I. to Queen Anne, Arch-bishop Laud, Theodore Randue, and other benefactors. Windsor sent two members to Parliament in the reign of Edward I. but omitted making any returns from 1340 to 1466. The right of election, which has been often contested, has been finally decided to be in the inhabitants at large, not receiving alms. In the parish church, which was originally a chapel to Clewer, is the monument of the learned Sir Thomas Reeve, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who resided at Windsor, and died in 1736, and a memorial for Dr. Heberden, the late celebrated physician, who died in 1801. He resided at Windsor in a house near the castle, lately purchased by his Majesty for the summer residence of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte.

THE free-school at Windsor was erected in 1706 for the reception of 30 boys and 20 girls, who are clothed and educated by the interest of various legacies, aided by a subscription of the inhabitants.

THERE are three sets of alms-houses at Windsor, with small endowments; one of them is of considerable antiquity, having been founded in 1503, by I. Tomson and W. Huntred, chaplain, and J. Combe, gent.

A hospital for sick soldiers, capable of accommodating 40 men, was built at Windsor in 1784, since which time some extensive barracks, both for infantry and cavalry, have been erected near the town.

VIEW OF THE VALE OF AYLESBURY.

THIS Vale, which lies under the Chiltern Hills, extending from the borders of Herts to Thame, in Oxfordshire, takes its name from the ancient town of Aylesbury, which lies almost in its centre. The fertility of this district is almost proverbial. Fuller tells us, that one field in this Vale, or as he calls it, one entire pasture, in the manor of Quarendon, belonging to Sir Robert Lee, was let at 800l. per annum, yet the tenant complained not of his bargain; as the extent of the field is not mentioned, nothing can be learned as to the exact value of the land in his time. The late Report of the state of Agriculture in this County, confirms what has been said of the richness and fertility of the Vale of Aylesbury; which has produced, say the authors of that Report, such a system of indolence among the farmers, (rarely to be met with among that industrious part of the community) that, contented with the fertility which nature has bestowed on their lands, they neglect every artificial means by which they might be rendered more productive. Camden speaks of the numerous flocks of sheep in the Vale of Aylesbury, loaded with wool, and yielding great profit to their owners; and Fuller tells us, that the biggest bodied sheep in England were bred in this Vale; where it was common in his time (1660) to give 10l. or more for a ram. The authors of the Agricultural Report of the County of Buckingham, give a very different account of the present state of sheep farming in this district, which, they observe, is not likely to be improved, as grazing and dairy farms seem to be the more favourite objects of pursuit. They observe also, that the lands are very subject to the rot, which prevents improvement by the introduction of new breeds. Great numbers of oxen are fed in this Vale for the Smithfield market. The most extensive view of the Vale of Aylesbury is from the Chiltern hills, above Ellesborough. The annexed View was taken from the Buckingham road; the town of Aylesbury is seen at a distance.

VIEW OF BUCKINGHAM.

THIS ancient town, which gives its name to the county, lies on the banks of the Ouse, about 57 miles distant from London. The assizes, which had been formerly held at Buckingham, and had been removed to Aylesbury in the reign of King Henry VIII. through the interest of Chief Justice Baldwin, an inhabitant of that town, were in part restored to Buckingham in 1747, by an Act of Parliament, procured by Lord Cobham, which fixed the summer assizes there for the time to come. The Town-hall, which forms a conspicuous object in the annexed View, was built many years before, in 1685, by Sir Ralph Verney; the figure of a swan placed on the top, is the cognizance of the town. Buckingham is described as a borough, in the Survey of Domesday; but it does not appear that it sent members to parliament before the year 1544; the right of election is in the bailiff and burgesses. Browne Willis, the antiquary, was one of the representatives of this borough in 1705, and Dr. Radcliffe, the celebrated physician, in 1713. The town is governed by a bailiff, principal burgesses, and steward, pursuant to charter of incorporation granted by Queen Mary. Buckingham has a large market on Saturdays, and ten annual fairs, January 12th and 30th, March 6, May 6, Thursday in Whitsun-week, July 10, September 4, October 2, Saturday after October 11, and November 8. The chief manufacture of the town and neighbourhood is lace-making; the number of houses in the town and prebend-end in 1801 was 326, the number of inhabitants 1685 exclusive of those in the out-lying hamlets.

IN very early times Buckingham was celebrated as the burial place of Rumbald, the son of a Saxon King, an infant saint, who died at three days old, and was canonized in the days of blind superstition; a shrine was erected over his remains, which became the resort of great numbers of pilgrims, to the no small advantage of the town. In the wars between Edward the Elder and the Danes Buckingham appears to have been an object of contention; but historians are not agreed by which of the contending parties it was fortified; it is said to have been a place of great strength in 1010, and to have been in the possession of the Danes: it sustained no siege during the civil war in the seventeenth century, but was occasionally the head-quarters of the King and of the Parliamentary army.

THE old church at Buckingham had a lofty spire, 163 feet in height, which was esteemed one of the chief ornaments of the county; it fell down in 1699; the tower which supported it remained till 1776, when it shared the same fate, just after Mr. Pennant, who was then upon one of those tours which have afforded so much amusement and gratification to the public, had quitted the church. The old fabrick, which had a chapel dedicated to St. Rumbald, was pulled down soon afterwards, and the present church built on the site of the old castle, which is supposed to have been a seat of the Giffards, Earls of Buckingham, from whom, by the marriage of an heiress of that family to an ancestor of the Grenvilles, is descended the present Marquis of Buckingham. The new church, which was completed in 1780, is a handsome freestone building, with a spire nearly equal in height to that which fell down in 1699; over the altar is a copy of the Transfiguration, by Raphael, given to the town by the Marquis of Buckingham.

THE free-school at Buckingham is said to have been founded by King Edward VI. and to have been endowed by him with a stipend of 10l. per annum, which is now paid out of the Exchequer; the school-house was an ancient chantry chapel, founded by Matthew Stratton, archdeacon of Buckingham, who died in 1268, and dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket.

CHRIST'S Hospital in Buckingham was founded by Queen Elizabeth in 1597, for seven poor women; it is but slenderly endowed. Barton's Hospital for six poor persons, was originally founded by John Barton in 1431, and having been suppressed as devoted to superstitious uses, was afterwards re-founded by Mrs. Dayrell in 1583. The Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, and Methodists, have chapels or meeting-houses at Buckingham.

VIEW OF ETON COLLEGE.

PLATE I.

THIS celebrated college was founded by King Henry VI. in the year 1440, for a provost, ten priests, four clerks, six choiristers, twenty-five poor grammar scholars, and twenty-five poor men; its establishment has since been somewhat altered, and it now consists of a provost, seven fellows, two school-masters, two conducts, seven clerks, seventy scholars, and ten choiristers. The first provost of Eton was Henry Sever, his successor was William Waynfleet, the founder of Magdalen College, in Oxford. Eton College was particularly exempted in the act for the dissolution of colleges and chantries in the reign of Edvard VI.; the annual election of scholars from the foundation to King's College, in Cambridge, founded by the same Monarch, takes place about the end of July, or the beginning of August, when twelve of the head boys are put on the roll to succeed at King's college as vacancies happen; the average number of vacancies is about nine in two years; at nineteen years of age the scholars are superannuated: Eton College sends two scholars also to Merton College in Oxford, where they have the title of postmasters, and has a few exhibitions of twenty-one guineas each for its superannuated scholars, towards whose assistance Mr. Chamberlayne, a late fellow, bequeathed an estate of 80l. per annum, after the death of his widow. The scholars elected to King's College succeed to fellowships at six years standing. The independent scholars at Eton, commonly called oppidans, are very numerous; this school having been long ranked among the first public seminaries in this, or any other country; the average number of oppidans for some years past has been from 300 to 350.

ETON College consists of two quadrangles; in the first is the school, the chapel, and lodgings for the masters and scholars; the other is occupied by the library, the provosts' lodgings, and the apartments of the fellows; in the provosts' lodgings is a portrait, said to have been intended for Jane Shore, and those of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Thomas Smith, a learned statesman, who was provost of the college, Sir Robert Walpole, Provost Stewart, clerk of the closet to King Charles the First, Sir Henry Saville, Sir Henry Wotton, Francis Rowse, and several other provosts of the college.

VIEW OF ETON COLLEGE.

PLATE II.

THIS View exhibits a part of the first quadrangle, in which are seen part of the chapel, and the bronze statue of the founder, given to the college by Provost Godolphin; the chapel, as far as relates to external appearance, is a very handsome gothic structure, the inside exhibits none of that ornamental architecture so much admired in King's College Chapel, at Cambridge, to which this has been sometimes compared; but is on the contrary quite plain, and has been disfigured by some injudicious alterations which were made in the beginning of the last century, when several of the old monuments were removed, and others concealed behind the screen then placed at the East end: the whole length of the chapel is 175 feet, including the anti-chapel,

which measures 62 feet in length. Among the eminent persons buried in this chapel were Richard, Lord Grey of Wilton, henchman to King Henry VIII., John Longland, of Lincoln, confessor to that Monarch, Sir Henry Saville, the learned warden of Merton College, and Sir Henry Wotton, an eminent statesman and ambassador, both provosts of Eton; Francis Rowse, a distinguished writer among the Puritans, and one of the Lords of Cromwell's upper house, who died provost of Eton in 1658; Provost Allestree, an eminent royalist, who built, at his own expence, the new, or upper school, with the cloisters beneath, and Dr. Nathaniel Ingelo, author of a romance, called Bentevolio and Urania, who died in 1683. In the ante-chapel is a statue of the founder, by Bacon, given to the college by the will of the Rev. Dr. Betham, who died in 1780.

The college library contains a very numerous collection of books, the benefactions of various donors, particularly Bishop Waddington, Mr. Mann, master of the Charter-house, Richard Topham, some time keeper of his Majesty's records in the Tower, and the late Anthony Storer, Esq. who bequeathed to the college the whole of his valuable library.

VIEW OF GREAT MARLOW

THE Town of Great-Marlow, which lies on the banks of the Thames, at the distance of 31 miles from London, has had a market from time immemorial, as appears from its ancient appellation of Chipping-Marlow. The market-day is Saturday. There are two annual fairs, May 2d, and October 29th; the latter is a great fair for horses. Marlow sent members to Parliament as early as the year 1299; but this ancient privilege was disused from 1308 till 1622, when it was restored by act of Parliament; the right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot; the town is governed by two Constables, who are the returning officers. In 1801 the town and parish of Marlow contained 669 houses, and 3236 inhabitants.

The parish church is a spacious gothic structure, and has a wooden spire, erected in 1627. A neat baptistery was fitted up, and a new marble font given by the late vicar, Dr. Cleobury. The only remarkable monument is that of Sir Miles Hobart, one of the members for this borough, who was killed by the overturning of his coach, as it was going down Holborn Hill; the manner of his death, which happened in 1632, is represented in basso relievo. The book of church-wardens' accounts in this parish, makes mention of a sum of money disbursed for throwing in the bulwarks about the church, and in Duck-lane, and cleaning the church after the soldiers had been quartered in it, in 1642, when the Parliamentary army, under the command of Major Gen. Brown, had their quarters at Marlow. The sum of five shillings appears to have been given to the ringers, when the unfortunate monarch, Charles I. passed through the town, a prisoner, in 1647.

Sir W. Borlase founded a free-school in this town, in 1624, for 24 boys; and another school for the same number of girls; but the latter institution has not been kept up. An alms-house for four poor widows was founded by John Brinkhurst, in 1608, and endowed with lands; two more houses have been since added out of the savings of the estate.

Marlow has had a bridge over the Thames from a very early period; it is mentioned in a record of the reign of Edward III; the present bridge, which is of wood, was built by subscription, in the year 1789.

VIEW OF CLIEFDEN

MR. FARINGTON's Pencil has given, in the annexed view, a faithful delineation of this celebrated mansion, which now no longer exists, having been destroyed by a fire, which broke out on the 20th of May, 1795, and burned with such fury, that scarcely any of its rich furniture or valuable paintings could be preserved; the wings are the only parts of the building which now remain. Cliefden House was purchased of the ancient family of Manfeld, who had been many years settled there, by the witty and profligate Duke of Buckingham, who having pulled down the old mansion, began on its site a magnificent fabrick, which he never lived to finish; it was completed by the Earl of Orkney, who purchased the shell of his executors. It should seem that the Duke of Buckingham resided for some time at Cliefden, before he began to build; for, Pope alludes to his well-known intrigue with the Countess of Shrewsbury, as having been carried on at this place.

"Gallant and gay in Cliefden's proud alcove,
The Bower of wanton Shrewsbury and love."

FREDERICK Prince of Wales, father to his present Majesty, rented Cliefden-house of Anne Countess of Orkney, and resided in it during several summers. The situation of Cliefden has been much and justly admired. Windsor Castle, the prominent feature in its prospect, is perhaps no where seen to more advantage; and the richness of the more distant view is heightened by the beauty of the scenery more immediately contiguous.

VIEW OF HIGH-WYCOMBE.*

THIS Town, which is the handsomest, and one of the most populous in the county, lies on the road to Oxford, at the distance of 29 miles from London; it has a large corn market on Fridays, which has been held from time immemorial: there is only one annual fair, held on the Monday before Michaelmas. This town appears to have been first incorporated by charter in the year 1461; but the mayor and aldermen are mentioned in records of an earlier date; the corporation consists of a mayor, twelve aldermen, a recorder, and inferior officers. The town-hall, in which are held the sessions for the town, and other public meetings, was built in 1757, at the expence of John, Earl of Shelburne. High Wycombe has sent members to Parliament ever since the year 1300; the right of election is vested in the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgesses, about 180. in number; Edmund Waller, the poet, was one of the representatives of this borough in 1625; the brave Sir Edmund Verney, King Charles's standard-bearer, who fell at the battle of Edghill, was elected in the parliaments of 1639 and 1640; Thomas Scott, the regicide, was one of the representatives during the Protectorate of Cromwell. The number of houses in the town in 1801, was 458; that of inhabitants 2349; the whole parish contained 4248 inhabitants, being the most populous of any in the county. On the small river Wyke, which rises at West Wycombe and passes through this parish and near the town, are several corn and paper mills.

THE parish church contains some handsome monuments of the Shelburne family; that of Henry, Earl of Shelburne, who died in 1751, is by Scheemakers; it is decorated with the effigies of the deceased on a sarcophagus of black marble, and a medallion of his father, the celebrated Sir William Petty; that of Sophia, Countess of Shelburne, (first wife of the late Marquis of Lansdowne) is by Carlini. The altar-piece, by Mortimer, represents St. Paul con-

* *The Engraver has, by Mistake, called it Wickham.*

verting the Druids. The ancient hospital of St. John the Baptist, in this town, was granted to the corporation by Queen Elizabeth; the lands are now applied to the maintenance of a grammar school, and the support of eight poor widows in the hospital; the revenues having been augmented by the benefaction of Mrs. Bowden, the master's salary has been increased to 30l. per annum, and the widows receive 2s. each weekly.

The learned William Alley, Bishop of Exeter, one of the translators of the Bible, and Charles Butler, author of a Treatise of Rhetorick, and the Female Monarchy, or a Treatise on Bees, were natives of High-Wycombe.

In the front of the annexed View is seen the manor house of Loakes, now the property and residence of Lord Carrington; it belonged formerly to the family of Archdale, of whom it was purchased by Henry, Earl of Shelburne, who bequeathed it, with other estates, to his nephew, John Fitzmaurice, afterwards created Baron of Chiping-Wycombe and Earl of Shelburne; his son, who was, in 1784, created Earl Wycombe, of Chiping-Wycombe, and Marquis of Lansdowne, sold this estate, about the year 1795: it is now the property of Lord Carrington: the manor house was considerably enlarged and improved by the first Earl of Shelburne, and the Marquis of Lansdowne bestowed much cost in laying out the gardens and pleasure grounds; the house has been almost wholly rebuilt by Lord Carrington in the gothic style, from designs of Mr. Wyatt; it is now called Wycombe Abbey; the river Wyke contributes much to the ornament of the pleasure grounds.

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The Chapel at Etons College taken within the first quadrangle

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Wickham, from the Marlow Road

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE nine Views contained in this Second Part will serve to illustrate the First Part of the Second Volume (published at the same Time) of MAGNA BRITANNIA; or, a concise Topographical Account of the several Counties of Great Britain, by the Rev. DANIEL LYSONS, F. R. S. and F. A. S. and SAMUEL LYSONS, Esq. F. R. S. and F. A. S. and when bound therewith may be placed in the following order:

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*** The third and subsequent Parts of BRITANNIA DEPICTA will be published regularly at the same periods as the continuation of the MAGNA BRITANNIA; arranged in the same manner, and printed on paper of corresponding size and quality.

VIEW OF CAMBRIDGE.

CAMBRIDGE, of which the annexed Plate exhibits a general view. is principally celebrated for its University, the foundation of which is, by some writers, carried back to a very remote period. There is good reason for supposing, that it was a seat of learning in the time of Sigebert, king of the East Angles, who lived in the seventh century; but it was many years afterwards that a regular system of academical education was introduced. The students, originally, resided in hired lodgings; they afterwards lived in community, under the government of a principal, in large houses, which were called inns, or hotels; it was not till about the middle of the thirteenth century, that the first college was founded and endowed, for their residence and support. It has now sixteen colleges,—Peter-House, founded by Hugh Balsham, in 1257; Clare-Hall, by Richard Badew, in 1326; Pembroke-Hall, by Mary, Countess of Pembroke, in 1343; Corpus-Christi, or Bene't College, begun by the Brethren of the Gilds of Corpus-Christi and St. Mary, in 1344; Trinity-Hall, founded by William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, in 1347; Gonville and Caius-College, begun by Edmund Gonville, in 1348, and further endowed and enlarged by Dr. John Caius, in 1557; King's-College, founded by King Henry VI. in 1441; Queen's-College, founded by Queen Margaret of Anjou, in 1448; Catherine-Hall, founded by Robert Woodlark, Provost of King's-College, in 1475; Jesus-College, founded by John Alcock, Bishop of Ely, in 1496; Christ's-College, founded by Margaret, Countess of Richmond, in 1505; and St. John's-College, by the Executors of the same Lady, in 1524; Magdalen-College, projected by Edward Stafford, Marquis of Buckingham, and completed by the Lord Audley, in 1542; Trinity-College, founded by King Henry VIII. in 1546; Emanuel-College, founded by Sir Walter Mildmay, in 1584; and Sidney-Sussex-College, founded by the Executors of Frances Sidney, Countess of Sussex, in 1596.

The most remarkable of these colleges, for the extent of their endowment, or the magnificence of their buildings, are Trinity, St. John's, and King's Colleges.—Trinity-College has sixty fellowships, and sixty-nine exhibitions; St. John's, fifty-three fellowships, beside the nine Platt-fellowships, and one hundred and fourteen exhibitions; and King's College, seventy fellowships and scholarships. The great Court of Trinity-College is six hundred and thirty yards in circuit; the chapel, which was begun by Queen Mary, and finished by Queen Elizabeth, is above two hundred feet in length; in the antechapel is a statue of Sir Isaac Newton, who received his education at this college, in white marble, by Roubiliac; the Library is a magnificent room, two hundred feet in length. The Chapel, at King's-College, has been long celebrated as one of the richest specimens of the later gothic architecture, in the kingdom, and is remarkable, also, for the beautiful painted glass with which its windows are ornamented. Jesus-College was built on the site of St. Radegund's Nunnery, the conventual church of which now serves as

the college chapel. At Corpus-Christi-College is the valuable M. S. library of Archbishop Parker, and at Magdalen-College, that of Samuel Pepys, Secretary of the Admiralty, in the reign of Charles II. A new college, founded by Sir George Downing, who died in 1717, and to be called after his name, after many year's litigation, received the sanction of the royal charter in 1800, and the buildings are now advancing.

The principal buildings, belonging to the university, are the schools, the public library, and the senate house; the library is supposed to contain about 96,000 volumes. The senate house, in which most of the public business of the university is transacted, is a handsome stone edifice, of the Corinthian order, designed by Sir James Burrough; it was begun in 1722, but not entirely completed till 1766: the inside, which is fitted up in the doric style, is 101 feet by 42, and supposed to be capable of holding 1000 persons.

The principal monasteries in Cambridge were that of the Austin Canons at Barnwell, and that of the Benedictine Nuns of St. Radegund. The Benedictine Monks and the Gilbertines, had monasteries also at Cambridge; and there were houses of several sorts of Friers,—as the Carmelites, the Black and Grey Friers, the Austin Friers, the Bethlemites, the Friers of St. Mary, and the Friers *de Sacco*. The most remarkable events in the annals of Cambridge are its destruction, in 871, by the Danes, who, for many years afterwards, made it one of their principal stations;—the building of Cambridge Castle, by William the Conqueror;—the fortifying of the town by King Henry III. and its subsequent plunder, on the King's quitting it, by the rebellious barons, stationed in the Isle of Ely;—and the frequent commotions, sometimes attended with bloodshed, particularly in the years 1249 and 1381, between the townsmen of Cambridge and the members of the University.—Destructive fires happened at Cambridge in 1174 and 1294.—Queen Elizabeth honoured the University with a visit for five days, in 1564, when she was entertained with academical exercises, dramatic representations, &c. King James I. honoured them with a visit of equal length, in 1615, and was entertained in the same manner; he was so much amused with the play of *Ignoramus*, then first represented, that he paid a second visit to Cambridge, a few months afterwards, for the purpose of seeing it again performed.

The corporation of Cambridge consists of a mayor, 12 aldermen, and 24 common councilmen, besides officers. The town has been a parliamentary borough for time immemorial; Oliver Cromwell was twice elected one of its representatives: the election is vested in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, not receiving alms; the number of voters is now about 200. The number of inhabitants in the town, exclusively of the University, was, in 1801, according to the return then made to parliament, 9,276. A new county gaol has been lately built on the site of the ancient castle. Cambridge has a great corn market on Saturday, and three fairs, two of which are well known by the name of Pott-fair and Sturbridge-fair; the first continues a fortnight, the latter three weeks. Sturbridge fair is of great antiquity, and was formerly esteemed the largest fair in the kingdom for woollen cloths, Norwich stuffs, hops, and other goods; but its trade has been for many years gradually declining, and it is now of little importance.

Cambridge is divided into four wards, and contains 14 parishes;—All Saints; St. Andrew the Great; St. Andrew the Less, or Barnwell; St. Bene't; St. Botolph; St. Clement; St. Edward; St. Giles and St. Peter (united); St. Mary the Great; St. Mary the Less; St. Michael; St. Sepulchre; and Trinity. In the church of St. Andrew the Great is a cenotaph in memory of Capt. Cook, the celebrated circumnavigator, and two of his sons, who were lost at sea; a third, who was a student of Christ's College, lies buried at St. Andrew's. Great St. Mary is the University church, and was the burial place of Martin Bucer, the reformer, whose body was taken up in Queen Mary's reign, and burnt with that of Paul Phagius, another celebrated divine, who had been buried in St. Michael's church. Of St. Sepulchre's, or the Church of the holy Sepulchre, which is remarkable for its antiquity and peculiarity of its structure, two Views are given in this work. The learned Sir. John Cheke, tutor to King Edward VI. Jeremy

Taylor, bishop of Down and Connor, and William Whitehead, the poet laureat, were natives of Cambridge. There are several alms-houses at this place: King's College Alms-houses, founded by Margaret Fawkener in 1472; Jakenett's, founded by Thomas Jakenett, burgess of Cambridge, in 1473; Queen's College Alms-houses, for eight widows; the Vice-Chancellor's Alms-houses founded, in 1585, by Matthew Stokys, for six poor women; Dr. Perse's Alms-houses, for six poor single persons, founded in 1615; Wray's Alms-houses, founded in 1628, for widows and widowers; Thomas Hobson's Alms-houses, founded in 1630, for six poor widows; and Capt. Story's, founded in 1692, for four widows of clergymen, two other widows, and four old maids. Dr. Stephen Perse, in 1615, founded a grammar school for 100 scholars, and endowed it with a salary of £40 per annum for a master, and £20 per annum for an usher. The charity schools, for poor boys and girls, in which 288 children are now taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, were first instituted by the celebrated William Whiston, in 1703. They are chiefly supported by a rent-charge of £30 per annum, given by Mr. Worts, and voluntary contribution. The General Hospital was founded by Dr. John Addenbroke, whose name it bears; the building was begun about the year 1753, and it was finished and opened, for the reception of patients, in 1766. Thomas Hobson, the celebrated carrier, who founded an alms-house in Cambridge, and built the conduit, opposite the Town-hall, gave other charities to the poor of this town, to be disposed of at the discretion of the corporation.

The principal objects in the annexed view, which is taken from the fields, are King's College Chapel, St. Mary's Church, the Round Church, and Trinity College Chapel.

INSIDE VIEW OF KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL, IN CAMBRIDGE.

THE Chapel of King's College, in Cambridge, deservedly esteemed the chief ornament of that University, and the most finished example of the gothic architecture of the fifteenth century, was begun, in the year 1441, by King Henry the Sixth, who left very particular directions in his will as to the design and dimensions of every part of it: The unhappy termination of this monarch's reign put a stop to the work, which was not resumed, with much effect, till the year 1479, when King Edward IV. became a benefactor to the building, which was finished in 1515, with money bequeathed for that purpose by King Henry VII. It has been said, that this magnificent structure was designed by Nicholas Cloos, one of the first fellows of the College, and afterwards Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, who was appointed overseer of the works, on the commencement of the building. This Chapel is 290 feet in length, and 76 in width, including the small chapels, or, as they are called in the founder's will, closets, nine of which are on each side: seven of those on the south-side are now used for the College Library;—in the other two, on this side, are several sepulchral monuments and memorials, among which may be noticed those of the learned Provost, Robert Hacombleyn, who died in 1518, in whose time the roof of the Chapel was built, and the windows glazed; John Churchill, marquis of Blandford, who died in 1702; Dr. John Summer, Provost, 1772; and Robert Glynn Clobery, M. D. a great benefactor to the College, who died in 1800.

Every part of the Ante-chapel exhibits a rich display of gothic tracery, with roses, port cullises, and the royal arms, with the dragon and greyhound as supporters, carved in high relief: the vaulting of the roof is singularly rich and elegant. The windows exhibit a magnificent display of painted glass, containing various subjects from scripture history; it was put up in the early part of King Henry the Eighth's reign. The greater part of these are very well preserved; the colours are brilliant, and some of the designs have great merit; the great east window has eighteen different subjects of our Saviour's passion. There are twelve windows on either side of the Chapel, each of them divided into ten large compartments, in two ranges, besides several small ones in the arches;—those in the upper range contain subjects, for the most part, from the Old Testament: the great west window has no remains of painted glass. This view is taken from the west end of the Chapel.

VIEW OF ST. SEPULCHRE'S CHURCH, IN CAMBRIDGE.

Inside view of the same Church.

ST. Sepulchre's Church, or the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, sometimes, from the peculiar form of its structure, called the Round Church, stands on the east side of Bridge Street. This Church, being one of those buildings erected in imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, at Jerusalem, exhibits a very curious specimen of Saxon architecture: it is forty-one feet in diameter, and has a peristyle of eight clumsy columns, supporting circular arches with chevron mouldings. This building is supposed to have been erected in the reign of King Henry the First, and to be the oldest of this form in England: the upper story of the tower, and the square part, at the east end, are gothic, and of a much more modern date. The west door is richly ornamented with chevron mouldings, and a single fret. This Church was formerly appropriated to Barnwell Priory. The inside view is as taken from the west door; the pews are omitted in order to shew the whole of the building.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

THIS College was projected, and begun, by Margaret, Countess of Richmond, a short time before her death, which happened in 1509, and was completed by her executors; it then consisted only of the present first court, which was four years in building. This College is situated on the north of Trinity College, and occupies the whole space between Trumpington-street and the river, consisting of three courts; the dimensions of the first, which was begun by the Foundress, as above-mentioned, are about 228 feet by 216; the approach to it, from the street, is under a handsome turretted gate-way; the second court, which is chiefly occupied by the apartments of the fellows, is very handsome;—its dimensions are about 270 feet by 240; it was built by the benefaction of Mary, Countess of Shrewsbury; the inner court, next the river, is of smaller dimensions than the others. The north side of the first court is occupied by the chapel—that of the second by the master's lodge—and that of the third by the library—extending, altogether, the whole length of the college, from east to west, about 480 feet.

In the chapel, on the floor, is a grave-stone, with the figure of an ecclesiastic engraved on a brass plate; there are memorials also of Dr. Humphrey Gower, master, and Margaret professor of divinity, 1711; Dr. John Newcome, dean of Rochester, also master, and Margaret professor, 1765; and Dr. Powell, master, 1775.

In the Ante-chapel are the monuments of Hugh Ashton, one of the executors of the Foundress, and a great benefactor to the college, who died in 1522; Dr. Metcalfe, master, 1537; Dr. John Smith, in 1715; on the floor is a grave-stone for Thomas Baker, the antiquary.

The library, built by Archbishop Williams, is a spacious room, and contains one of the most valuable and extensive collection of books in the University. In the master's lodge is a spacious ancient gallery, nearly 155 feet in length, with a richly-ornamented ceiling, now divided into a suite of rooms, containing many portraits of benefactors and members of the college; among which are a whole length of the Foundress, a picture of her time, much ornamented with gilding; a portrait, by Holbein, said to be of Fisher, bishop of Rochester;—and a whole length of Prior, painted in France. The hall, which, with its offices, divides the first and second courts, is a spacious gothic room, and contains several portraits, among which are whole lengths of the Foundress, Sir Ralph Hare, and Archbishop Williams.

The spacious gardens and walks, belonging to this college, lie on the west side of the river, over which is a stone bridge, of three arches, leading from the inner court.

This view shews the bridge above-mentioned, and the back part of the inner court.

VIEW OF ELY.

ELY, the capital of the Isle of that name, though far from populous, lays claim, as being a Bishop's see, to the title of a city; it is situated near the river Ouse, fifteen miles from Cambridge, and sixty-eight from London. The monastery, to which this place owes its origin, was founded by Etheldreda, daughter of a king of the East Angles, who became the first abbess, died in 679, and was canonized as a Saint. This monastery was destroyed by the Danes in 870; some of the ruined buildings were afterwards repaired, and occupied by a college of secular clergy, till the year 970, when the monastery was restored to its former flourishing state, by Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, under the patronage of King Edgar. At the fatal battle of Assendon, in 1018, the monks of Ely, who came thither to pray for their countrymen, were all massacred by the Danes. King Canute shewed much favour to this monastery, and, for several years, kept the festival of the purification at Ely with his Queen Emma. King Edward the Confessor was educated in this convent. In 1109, Ely was made a Bishop's see, and the jurisdiction of the Island, which had belonged to the Abbots, became vested in the Bishop, and his successors. From this time, till the dissolution, the monastery continued under the government of a Prior. The Priory was surrendered to King Henry VIII. in the year 1539, at which time the revenues of the bishopric were estimated at £2134 18 6¼ per annum; those of the monastery, at £1084 6 9½. The king placed, in the cathedral of Ely, a Dean and eight Prebendaries, and endowed the chapel with most of the possessions of the dissolved monastery. The episcopal palace, mostly rebuilt by Bishop Mawson, retains some traces of a more ancient structure, particularly the gallery, built by Bishop Goodrick, which is 100 feet in length, and contains portraits of several of the Bishops. The deanry and prebendal houses occupy the site of the ancient conventual building; many parts of which are still remaining, and some of them are of great antiquity. The cathedral exhibits the architecture of various periods, and, as the dates of the structure of its several parts are well known, it forms a very interesting study for the architect and antiquary: the two transepts were built between the years 1081 and 1093; the nave was completed before the year 1174; the great tower, at the west end, between 1174 and 1189; the vestibule, at the west end, was begun about 1200; the choir was finished in 1252; the lantern was completed in 1328; St. Mary's chapel was built about the same time; Bishop West's chapel, in the reign of Henry VIII. The most remarkable monuments are that supposed to be for John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester; those of the Bishops Northwold, Kilkenny, de Luda, Alcock, West, Heton and Gunning; and those of Dean Cæsar, and Sir Mark Steward.

Ely is divided into three wards, each of which has its separate constable. The spring assizes for the Isle of Ely, and the Easter and Michaelmas quarter sessions are held here. The market, which was held by prescription, was altered in 1801, from Saturday to Thursday. There are two fairs, Holy Thursday, and the 29th of October; the latter, which is on the festival of St. Etheldreda, was originally granted to be held for twenty-two days; both the

fairs are now held for nine days; St. Etheldreda's fair was, in ancient times, noted for the sale of ribbands of various colours, which were held in veneration, as having touched the shrine of St. Etheldreda, and were called St. Audrey's ribbands; hence the origin of the word *tawdry*. According to the returns made to Parliament, under the population act, the city of Ely, in 1801, contained 796 houses, and 3713 inhabitants.

Ely contains two parishes, that of the Holy Trinity and St. Mary's; the beautiful chapel of St. Mary, in the cathedral, has been appropriated as a parochial church for the former. Oliver Cromwell, being lessee of the great tithes under the church of Ely, which estate came to him, by bequest from his uncle, Sir Thomas Steward, resided several years at the rectory house; being at Ely in the month of January, 1644, he ordered the cathedral service to be discontinued: he first wrote to the clergy, to desire that they would desist from using it, but finding his request disregarded, he entered the cathedral with a party of soldiers, and, with his sword drawn, ordered the vicar to leave off his fooling, and drove the whole congregation out of doors.

The free-school at Ely was founded by King Henry VIII; the master, who is appointed by the Dean and Chapter, has a salary of £18 per annum, and a house and garden. In the year 1740, Mrs. Catherine Needham, founded a charity school for 24 boys, which is endowed with lands, now rented at £223 10 per annum; the master has a salary of £31 10 per annum, and the boys, whose number has been increased to 30, are clothed and apprenticed out of the profits of the estate. There are several small estates which, collectively, produce £270 per annum; under the management of "The governors of the lands and possessions of the poor of the city, or town, of Ely," who were incorporated by that name in the reign of Charles I. Oliver Cromwell was one of the first governors.

VIEW OF THE REMAINS OF THE OLD CONVENTUAL CHURCH AT ELY.

THIS building is one of the oldest relics of the kind in this kingdom, being, unquestionably, of as early a date as the reign of King Edgar, in the tenth century, and there is reason to suppose, that some part of it may be of the original structure erected in the latter part of the seventh century. The convent of Ely was founded in the year 673, by Etheldreda, daughter of Anna, king of the East Angles, who died in the year 679, and was canonized; it was in a flourishing condition when the Danes, in the year 870, entered the Isle of Ely, plundered the town and convent, and set fire to both, having first massacred the religious, except a few, who escaped by flight; some of these, a few years afterwards, returned to Ely, and repaired some parts of the church, as an habitation for themselves, and for the celebration of divine service: this was the commencement of a college of secular clergy, which continued at Ely till the year 970, when the monastery was restored to its former flourishing state, and replenished with monks, by Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, under the patronage of King Edgar. To this period, the building of the entire fabric of the conventual church is referred by some; whilst others, on the authority of an ancient historian, suppose, that it was then only repaired.

This church was an oblong building, consisting of a nave and choir, both of them with side aisles; the east end is supposed to have been, originally, semicircular, but a chapel appears to have been afterwards added there, which is now converted into one of the prebendal houses.

This view shews the remains of the nave, now occupied by prebendal houses, which have been built between the pillars.

VIEW OF THE REMAINS OF THE TWO CHURCHES AT SWAFFHAM-PRIOR,

As they appeared in the Year 1806.

THE two parish churches of St. Mary and St. Cyric, stood in the same church-yard at Swaffham Prior, which has been a more considerable place than it is at present; as it formerly had a market, together with a fair, for five days, granted, in 1619, to the Prior of Ely, to whom it belonged. The church of St. Cyric, having been for some years dilapidated, has been lately rebuilt; the old tower, which is square below and octagonal at top, remains.—The church of St. Mary has been pulled down—but the tower remains, which is a very ancient and a remarkable building; the lower part being square and the second story octagonal; the upper story, which is more modern, has sixteen sides.

The benefices of the two parishes were united by act of parliament in 1667.

This view shows the south-east side of the tower of St. Cyric's Church, and the south side of the remains of St. Mary's.

VIEW OF THORNEY ABBEY.

THE origin of a religious establishment at Thorney, which lies in the north-west corner of the Fens, was about the year 662, when Saxulph, the first Abbot of Peterborough, is said to have founded an assemblage of hermitages, in which the hermits lived under the government of a prior. The Danes destroyed the hermitages in the year 870, and the place lay waste till 972, when Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, founded on the site an Abbey for Benedictine Monks, which became an opulent establishment, and ranked among the mitred Abbies. William of Malmsbury, who lived in the reign of Henry II. speaks with great enthusiasm of the beautiful situation of Thorney, and the extreme fertility of the soil; and he describes it as abounding with orchards and vineyards. After the reformation, the site of Thorney Abbey, with the Manor, &c. was granted to John, Lord Russell, ancestor of the Duke of Bedford, to whom the estate now belongs. The greater part of the conventual church, which had been rebuilt between the years 1085 and 1125, was taken down; the present parish church appears to be a remnant of the Norman structure, and to have been formed out of the central part of the nave. In the church-yard are several tombs of the refugee French, or Walloons, a colony of whom settled at Thorney, about the middle of the seventeenth century; having been employed by Francis, Earl of Bedford, in draining the fens.

This view shews the west end of the Church, which has two embattled turrets, richly ornamented with gothic tracery; and between them is a row of gothic niches, filled with statues; this is of a much later date than the other part of the church.

Drawn by T. Hearne F.S.A.

Engraved by S. Middiman

North East View of the Town of Cambridge

LONDON. Published May 4. 1808. by T. Cadell and W. Davies, Strand.

OF THE
ROMAN
BRANCH

Drawn by E. Nash. Engraved by John Byrne.

Inside View of Kings College Chapel in Cambridge; taken from the West End.

LONDON. Published May 4th 1808. by T. Cadell. & W. Davies. Strand.

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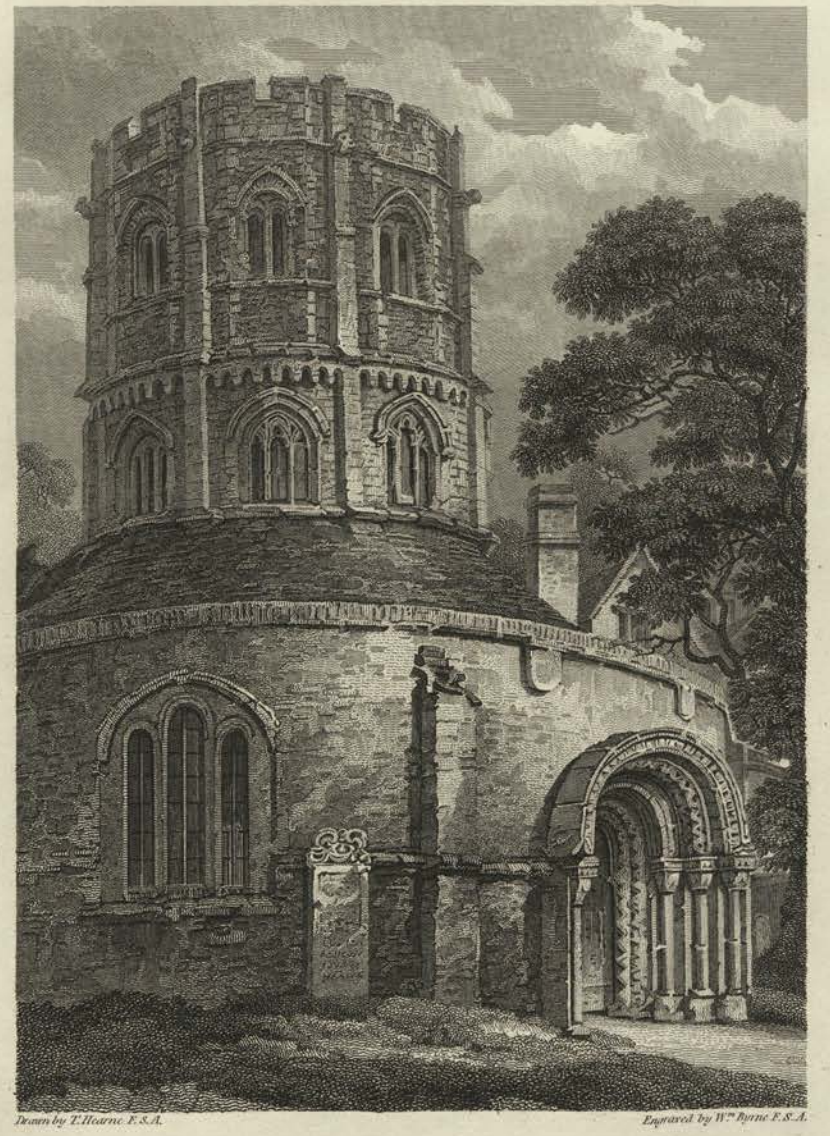

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N.W. View of S. Sepulchres Church, in Cambridge.

LONDON. Published May 4. 1808. by T. Cadell and W. Davies Strand.

Drawn by W. Alexander F.S.A.

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Inside View of St. Sepulchre's Church in Cambridge.

LONDON. Published May 4th 1808, by T. Cadell & W. Davies. Strand.

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St. John's College, Cambridge.

LONDON. Published May 1.1808. by T. Cadell and W. Davies, Strand.

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South-West View of Ely.

LONDON. Published May 4 1808. by T. Cadell and W. Davies, Strand.

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Remains of the Ancient Conventual Church at Ely.

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The Remains of Two Churches, at Swaffham-Prior, as they appeared in June 1806.

LONDON. Published, May 4th 1808, by T. Cadell & W. Davies, Strand.

Drawn by W. Alexander F.S.A. *Engraved by George Cooke.*

South West View of Thorney Abbey Church.

LONDON, Published May 4th 1805, by T. Cadell, & W. Davies, Strand.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Thirteen Views contained in this Third Part will serve to illustrate the Second Part of the Second Volume (published at the same Time) of MAGNA BRITANNIA; or, a concise Topographical Account of the several Counties of Great Britain, by the Rev. DANIEL LYSONS, F. R. S. and F. A. S. and SAMUEL LYSONS, Esq. F. R. S. and F. A. S. and when bound therewith may be placed in the following order:

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*** The Fourth and subsequent Parts of BRITANNIA DEPICTA will be published regularly at the same periods as the continuation of the MAGNA BRITANNIA; arranged in the same manner, and printed on paper of corresponding size and quality.

DISTANT VIEW OF CHESTER.

N. E. VIEW OF CHESTER.

VIEW IN BRIDGE STREET, CHESTER.

THIS ancient city, the metropolis of the County Palatine of the same name, is situated on the banks of the Dee, one hundred and ninety miles from London, by the way of Lichfield, on the great Irish road. This city was a place of note in the time of the Romans, and was the station of the twentieth legion, called the Victorious. In 607, it was taken from the Britons by Ethelfrid, the Saxon King of Northumberland; it was soon recovered by its old masters, and again taken by Egbert, the first King of all England, about the year 830; about the year 892 it was taken by the Danes; in, or about, 907, Ethelred, Earl of Mercia, and his wife, Ethelfleda, repaired the injury which it had sustained from those invaders, and rebuilt the walls of this city. After the death of Ethelfleda, who, with consummate and successful valour, governed the province of Mercia in her widowhood, Chester fell into the hands of the Welsh, from whom it was recovered by Edward the elder, in 942. In or about the year 971, King Edgar received, at Chester, the homage of six petty Sovereigns, who are said to have rowed him in his barge from the palace to St. John's Church. During the first two centuries after the conquest, Chester was the general rendezvous of the expeditions against the Welsh, and was occasionally visited by the monarch at the head of his army. The unfortunate Richard II. who was particularly partial to the men of Cheshire, who had made Cheshire a principality, and had appointed his body guard from that county, when he scarcely knew whom to trust about his person, slept in Chester on his road to London, after he had put himself in the power of his ambitious kinsman. Queen Margaret was at Chester on her progress, in 1455 and 1457; the latter year, being accompanied by her son, she interested the Cheshire men in favour of the Lancastrian cause, and gave her partizans the cognizance of a white swan;—they were distinguished by this badge in the subsequent battle of Bloreheath, which proved so destructive to her cause, and to her Cheshire friends. During the civil war, Chester was an important garrison of the Royalists. It sustained a siege of nearly three years. The King, who came to its relief in person, in the month of September, 1645, was a sad spectator of the unfortunate battle of Rowton-heath, from the top of the Phœnix tower. In consequence of the defeat of the King's forces, in that battle, the city was closely blockaded, and, after a protracted defence of several months, during which the garrison underwent the utmost hardships, and evinced a great degree of patience and of bravery, it was surrendered by the Governor, Lord Byron, on honourable terms, the third of Feb. 1646. The city and its suburbs were left almost a heap of ruins; the damage done by the besiegers was estimated at 200,000*l*. Chester was taken possession of by Sir George Booth, in 1659; but, after his defeat, was surrendered to General Lambert, on the first summons. In the month of November, 1688, it was seized by Lord Molineux and Lord Aston, for King James. In 1745 it was strongly garrisoned, on the approach of the rebels from the North.

Chester having been the metropolis of the little sovereignty with which

Hugh Lupus and his successors, were invested by King William the Conqueror, the Castle built by that monarch became their palace; the ancient room called Hugh Lupus's Hall, some time used as the Shire Hall, the Court of Exchequer, in which the Earls of Chester are said to have held their parliaments, and most of the ancient buildings of the Castle, have been of late years taken down, and their site is now occupied by a spacious gaol, a magnificent county hall, and other public buildings, since erected from the designs of Mr. Harrison. Each of the columns of the portico of the hall, of which there are 12 in number, is formed of one stone, twenty-three feet in height, from the Manley quarry. The expense of most of these buildings has been defrayed out of the revenues of the Weever navigation. The Castle is usually garrisoned by two companies of invalids, and is under the command of a Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Constable; the latter has the charge of the prisoners. When the city of Chester was made a county of itself, in the reign of Henry VII. the Castle, with its precincts, was excepted, and still continues attached to the shire, being extra-parochial.

In the township of Gloverstone, adjoining the castle, the bodies of convicts, left for execution, are delivered by the Constable to the city Sheriffs, whose office it has been, from time immemorial, to see the sentence of the law fulfilled within the limits of the city. This custom, concerning which there have been many unsatisfactory conjectures, appears, from ancient records, to have been a duty imposed on the citizens by the Earls of Chester, when they granted them the tolls of the North Gate.

The monastery of St. Werburgh was founded, for secular canons, in the reign of King Athelstan, by Ethelfleda, Countess of Mercia, on the site of an ancient convent, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, converted it into an abbey of Benedictine monks, which he amply endowed, and it continued in opulence and splendour till the general dissolution of monasteries, when its revenues were estimated at 1003l. 5s. 11d. clear yearly value. There are scarcely any remains of the Abbey, except the refectory, now occupied by the grammar school, and the gateway. King Henry VIII. changed the conventual into a cathedral church, placing in it a Dean and six Prebendaries, and, at the same time, made Chester a Bishop's See. The cathedral church is 348 feet from East to West, and the width of the choir and nave 74 feet six inches. The chapter house, an elegant building of the thirteenth century, was the burial place of the Earls of Chester, and of several of the Abbots. Great part of the present building of the cathedral was erected in the fourteenth century; but it appears to have been finished in the succeeding century, in the time of the Abbots Ripley and Birkenshaw. There are monuments in the cathedral of some of the Bishops, of Dean Arderne, Sir William Mainwaring, who was slain at the siege of Chester, Dean Smith, the translator of Longinus, Thucidydes, and Xenophon, Archdeacon Travis, &c. In the South aisle is an altar tomb, which, by a tradition wholly destitute of foundation, has been long appropriated to Henry IV. Emperor of Germany. The shrine of St. Werburgh, a most beautiful specimen of enriched Gothic architecture, now forms the Bishop's throne.

The small Benedictine Nunnery of St. Mary, the origin of which is uncertain, was valued, at the dissolution, at 66l. 18s. 4d. per annum. Nunshall, built on the site of this convent, which was granted to the Brereton family, continued for several years to be their seat; it was destroyed in the civil war, and the site is now a garden. The White, Grey, and Black Friers, had houses at Chester. White-Friers being afterwards the property of Lord Keeper Egerton, he pulled down the fine steeple, erected only a century before, which had served as a land mark to persons navigating the Dee channel. There are now no remains of the mansion belonging to the Egertons, which was built on the site; nor of the seat of Sir Thomas Smith, which occupied the site of the Grey Friers: a part of Sir Peter Warburton's, which was built on that of the Black Friers, is still standing.

The citizens of Chester possess many valuable privileges, by grant from the Earls. In 1506 the city was, by King Henry VII. made a county of itself,

and the citizens incorporated, the corporation being made to consist of a Mayor, Recorder, two Sheriffs, twenty-four Aldermen, (including the Mayor and Recorder) and forty Common Council Men. There are also two officers appointed out of the corporation, called leave-lookers, whose duty it is to inspect the markets, to see that the duties belonging to the corporation are duly paid, and that no strangers exercise their trade within the city, and two murengers, who receive the murage duties, and inspect the expenditure in the repair of the walls. By very ancient usage the Mayor has a crown-mote and port-mote, for the trial of criminals, and the determination of civil actions. Another very ancient court, called the Pentice court, is held before the Sheriffs, and has cognizance of all personal actions. The building, called the Exchange, completed in 1698, was fitted up for the purpose of holding the Mayor's courts, and other public meetings of the corporation; a handsome room, 39 feet by 26½, is appropriated for the corporation entertainments, assemblies, &c. Before the building of the Exchange, the corporation held their common hall in St. Nicholas's chapel, which was fitted up for that purpose in 1545; at an earlier period the common hall was in the lane to which it still gives name. The banquetting room was at an ancient building called the Pentice, where the Sheriff's courts were held; this building stood at the junction of the North and East Gate streets. There were banquetted King James I. the Earls of Leicester, Essex, Strafford, and other great persons, who formerly honoured the city with their presence.

The gilds, or incorporated companies in Chester, of which there were 25 in number, in doing their yearly homage to the Mayor, used formerly to walk in procession, with great pageantry, to St. Oswald's Church, on Midsummer day. The procession continues, being now on the 29th of May, but the pageantry has ceased. These companies, before the reformation, exhibited annually, at Whitsuntide, certain Dramas, taken from scripture history, and written by Randal Higden, a monk of Chester Abbey. These Whitsun plays, as they were called, were afterwards altered, by expunging such parts as were contrary to the reformed religion, and, in this shape, they were acted a few times in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; but, on account of the profane and ludicrous passages with which they abounded, they were forbidden to be represented, by the Archbishop of York; and the citizens, who had acted in them, contrary to the Archbishop's injunction, in 1574, the last time they were performed, were prosecuted. The citizens of Chester were much attached to sports and pastimes, and the Rood-Eye, was the *Campus Martius* where the youth exercised themselves in archery, foot-races, horse-races, &c. Here, on Shrove Tuesday, prizes were run for on foot, and on horse-back, and shot for in the long bow, pursuant to an order made in 1539, in the mayoralty of Henry Gee. On Easter Monday was a great display of archery, when the two Sheriffs, each with their party of archers, shot for a breakfast of calves' head and bacon; this was instituted in 1511. All these sports have been long discontinued, except the horse-races, which, in the year 1609, were altered to St. George's day, on which day, O. S. they are still held.

Chester sends two members to Parliament, pursuant to an act of Parliament passed in 1541. The right of election is in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council-men, whether commorant in the city or elsewhere, and the rest of the freemen, who have been resident therein for one year immediately preceding the election;—the present number of voters is about 1300. Chester was, in the reign of King Henry VIII. made one of the places of sanctuary for term of life, for all persons guilty of minor offences; but, in consequence of a petition from some of the principal inhabitants, Stafford was substituted in its stead. The privilege of sanctuary was wholly abolished in the reign of James I. It appears by the record of Domesday, that there were seven mints in Chester, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. In the reign of William III. Chester was one of the six cities in which mints were erected for re-coining the silver of the kingdom. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were 487 houses

in Chester, which paid taxes to the King or the Bishop; the number of inhabitants, in 1774, was 14,713; in 1801, the number of houses was 3194, that of the inhabitants 15,512. The sweating sickness, and the plague, were at various periods very fatal to this city; in 1507, ninety-one householders (of whom three were widows) died of the former in three days; in 1604, 986 persons died of the plague; at one period about 55 weekly: in 1647, 1906 persons died of the plague between June 22 and October 21.

Two weekly markets have been held at Chester, on Wednesday and Saturday, from time immemorial; they are plentifully supplied with fish, butchers' meat, &c. they formerly were great marts for corn; but, of late years, little trade has been carried on in that article. There are three annual fairs; at Midsummer, Michaelmas, and the last Thursday in February; the latter, called Horn and Hoof fair, being principally for horses and cattle, was granted by King Charles II. the others are of great antiquity, having being recognized as established fairs in the charter of Hugh Lupus. The origin of the jurisdiction of the Dutton family, over the minstrels of Cheshire, is attributed to the rescue of Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, by John Lacy the constable, with a great number of minstrels, and other persons collected at Chester fair. The minstrels attended the heir of the Dutton estate, in an annual procession on Midsummer day, to St. John's Church, and thence to the place where the minstrels' courts were held, till the year 1756, since which time the procession and the courts have been discontinued. The Chester fairs are great marts for the sale of various goods, particularly Irish linens, of which about three millions and a half of yards are annually sold; muslins and other articles manufactured in Lancashire; woollen cloth from Yorkshire; flannel from Wales and Lancashire; hardware from Sheffield and Birmingham; hops, &c. &c. The present linen hall, near Water-gate-street, which was built in 1778, contains thirty-six double, and twenty-four single shops; the Manchester hall, in East-gate-street, is principally for the manufactures of that populous town; the Union hall, lately erected, containing sixty single and ten double shops, is for Manchester goods also, and for Yorkshire woollen cloth. A glove is hung out at St. Peter's Church, fourteen days before the commencement of each fair, and till its conclusion, being in the whole 29 days, during which time non-freemen are allowed to trade within the city. Chester has formerly been a seaport of considerable consequence, but its trade has much declined. The chief imports now are linen from Ireland, skins from Leghorn, timber, hemp, and flax; the principal exports are lead, lead ore, and coals. Cheese and oak bark were formerly considerable articles of exportation; the former is now chiefly conveyed by the canals. Wine was, till of late years, a considerable foreign import. Ship-building, which has been carried on at Chester for many centuries, has of late been increasing, the ships built here being in great estimation among the merchants. The manufacture of gloves, formerly the staple commodity of this place, has declined; and the trade of the tanners and skinners is not so extensive as formerly; the manufacture of tobacco-pipes, for which this city was famous, has declined also, the principal manufactures of the present day are tobacco, snuff, needles, white-lead, iron, and patent shot.

The Dee Mills belonged anciently to the Earls of Chester, and were let, in the reign of Edward I. at the high rent of £200, equal to £6000, according to the present value of money. These mills, which have been several times rebuilt, were in great part burnt down in 1789, and were again rebuilt upon a larger scale; they are now the property of E. O. Wrench, Esq.

The city of Chester is still surrounded by its ancient walls, supposed to have been originally those of the Roman city, and rebuilt by Ethelfleda, Countess of Mercia. They are somewhat more than a mile and three quarters in circumference; on the top is a paved walk of sufficient width for two persons to walk abreast, which, in its circuit, affords a great variety of pleasing prospects in which the river Dee, Beeston Castle, and the hills of Derbyshire and Flintshire, are prominent features. There are four principal gates in the

walls of Chester besides posterns; the North-Gate of which the citizens had the charge; the Bridge-Gate, the custody of which belonged to the family of Raby, from whom it passed to the Norris's, Troutbecks, and Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury; the East-Gate, which belonged to the Bradfords, and afterwards successively to the Trussells, Veres, Earls of Oxford and the Crewes; and the Water-Gate, which belonged to the Earls of Derby. The custody and tolls of the three last have been purchased at several times by the corporation. The old Bridge-Gate was taken down in 1780 and 1781, and rebuilt in 1782; on the site of the East-Gate is an arch, built at the expense of Richard, Lord Grosvenor, in 1768; the arch, on the site of the Water-Gate, was built in 1788; the North-Gate, which was formerly the city prison, was re-built in 1809, from a design of the Doric order, by Mr. Harrison, at the expense of Earl Grosvenor. A new gaol for the city was built in 1807, near the Water-Gate. There were formerly several towers, for the purpose of defence and for annoying the enemy, on the city walls, of which only two are remaining; the New Tower, projecting from the walls towards the Dee, built by the citizens in 1322, and the Phœnix Tower, from which King Charles was a spectator of the battle of Rowton-Heath.

Chester is intersected by four principal streets: East-Gate Street, North-Gate Street, Bridge Street, and Water-gate Street, at the junction of which was the high-cross, destroyed in 1646. The carriage road, in these streets, is on a level with the under ground warehouses; over these are open galleries, called rows, for the accommodation of foot passengers, which occupy the space between the front of the tradesmen's shops, and the street; the upper rooms of the houses project over the rows, so as to be even with the warehouses beneath. The general appearance of these rows is as if the first stories in front of all the houses had been laid open and made to communicate with each other, pillars being left for the support of the superstructure; the foot passengers appear from the street as if they were walking along within the houses, up one pair of stairs; at the intersection of the streets are flights of steps leading to the opposite rows.

The bridge over the Dee consists of seven stone arches; it was originally of timber, the south end of the present structure was rebuilt in 1500; the ancient gates, which stood one at each end, were taken down in 1782 and 1784. The Black Friers first made an aqueduct from Spital Boughton for supplying the city with water; in 1537, Dr. Wall began some water-works at Boughton; in 1600, water-works were undertaken by Mr. John Tyrer; those by which the city is now supplied were began in 1698. An act of Parliament passed in 1761, for lighting, paving, and cleansing the streets of Chester; this act was amended and altered and its powers enlarged in 1803. The last-mentioned act put a stop to the dangerous practice of baiting a bull at the cross, continued from time immemorial, till within these few years, although often ineffectually endeavoured to be suppressed.

The city of Chester is divided into nine parishes and twelve wards; the parishes are St. Oswald's, St. John's, St. Peter's, Trinity, St. Bridget's, St. Michael's, St. Mary's, St. Olave's, and St. Martin's. The parish of St. Oswald contains the chapelry of Bruera, or Church-on-heath, and several townships, extending a considerable distance into the country. The parish church of St. Oswald, which forms the South transept of the cathedral, was built in 1488; it contains, among others, the monument of Sir William Gerrard, Lord Chancellor of Ireland. St. John's church was formerly collegiate; it was rebuilt by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in 1057; the present structure retains many vestiges of Saxon architecture. Peter, Bishop of Lichfield, when he removed the see to Chester in 1071, made it his cathedral; this continued only during his life time, but it remained collegiate till the reformation, when it had a dean, eight canons or prebendaries, and ten vicars-choral; the revenues of the college were then estimated at £119 17s. per annum. St. John's was fitted up for a parish church, as it now remains, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth;

when the chapels above the choir, which were in ruins, were cut off. In this church are memorials of several of the Cheshire families. On the south wall of St. John's church-yard was an ancient building, called the Anchorite's cell, which, by an unsupported tradition, is said to have been the place whither Earl Harold retired. Near this church-yard was the hospital of St. Anne, on the site of which stood Cholmondeley-hall, destroyed in the civil war. In the parish church of St. Mary, called anciently St. Mary de Castello, from its proximity to the castle, are monuments of the Randal Holmes, the Cheshire antiquaries; there having been four of the same name and family in immediate succession. The North aisle, which belonged to the Troutbeck family, and contained their monuments, fell down in the seventeenth century; it was given to the parish, in 1690, by the Duke of Shrewsbury, as representative of the Troutbecks. In Trinity Church is a memorial for Matthew Henry, the celebrated dissenting divine; in the same church lie the remains of Parnell the Poet. The Churches of St. Bride, St. Martin, St. Michael, St. Olave, and St. Peter, contain nothing remarkable. There were formerly other churches and chapels in Chester and its suburbs; St. Thomas's Church, where the deanery now is; a chapel dedicated to the same saint in the outer North-Gate Street; St. Chad's Church, near the Black-Friers, St. Nicholas's Church, at the end of St. Nicholas Street; St Nicholas's Chapel, where the Theatre now is; St. Mary's Church, or Chapel, in a field beyond the Bridge-Gate. The Chapel of St. John's Hospital, without the North-Gate, which was destroyed in the civil war, has been rebuilt. There are now in Chester, a Roman Catholic Chapel; a Quakers' meeting-house; a Presbyterian meeting-house; two meeting-houses for the Anabaptists, two for the Independents and five for the Methodists.

Among the eminent natives of Chester may be reckoned, according to common repute, Roger of Chester, and Ralph Higden, two ancient historians; and Henry Bradshaw, author of the life of St. Werburgh; and, with more certainty, David Middleton, who settled the English trade at Bantam; his brother, Sir Henry, who made a voyage to the Red Sea, and discovered Middleton's Straits; John Downham, author of the "Christian Warfare," (son of Bishop Downham;) Edward Brerewood, the mathematician, and first professor of Gresham college; Dr. Whittingham, Dean of Durham; translator of the Geneva bible, and versifier of those psalms in the old version which have the signature W. W. and Samuel Molyneux, an eminent astronomer, son of William Molyneux, the natural philosopher, author of a "treatise on Dioptrics," who, during the disturbances in Ireland, in the early part of King William's reign, resided at Chester, where his son was born in the year 1689.

The grammar school at Chester was founded by King Henry VIII. in 1544, for twenty-four boys, who are appointed by the Dean and Chapter; they are not to be admitted under nine years of age, and to continue only four years, unless a year of grace be allowed by the Dean. The master's salary is £22. the usher's, £10. The ancient hospital of St. John, without the North-Gate, was founded by Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, for a master, three Chaplains, and thirteen poor citizens; but for several centuries only a Chaplain and six widows were maintained in it: during the siege of Chester, the hospital and chapel were destroyed; they were rebuilt by Colonel Whitley, to whom King Charles II. had granted the estate for life; it was afterwards granted, in fee, to the corporation, who support six poor widows, in an almshouse, in the old chapel-yard. The bluecoat-school, which occupies part of the site of this hospital, was established in 1700, principally at the instance of Bishop Stratford; it was originally intended for the education of forty boys; in consequence of the increase of its income, from time to time, the establishment has been several times augmented; there are now twenty-five boys boarded, clothed, and educated; and twenty-five others educated only, by the master of the bluecoat-school, who has a salary of £57. 10s. besides 12 guineas for each boy's board. In 1783 it was determined, at the suggestion of Dr. Haygarth, an eminent physician at Chester, since removed to Bath,

that, instead of increasing the number of boarders, there should be a new school established, as a probation school; this is called the greencap-school, and contains now ninety scholars; the master has a salary of £45 per annum. The income of this establishment, for the year 1808, was £739. 6s. 7½d. The bluegirls'-school was established in 1750; in this school are twelve girls, who are taught, clothed, and maintained, for three years; the salary of the mistress is £25. 4s. 0d. The Sunday-schools, which had been declining, have been lately revived; in addition to those for girls, six schools of industry have been established, in each of which are forty children. The new Union hall has been engaged for the boys of the Sunday-schools, and is capable of accommodating between 500 and 600. It is the intention of the benevolent promoters of this charity, to make the Sunday-schools a step to the greencap and bluecoat-schools. The annual subscription to the Sunday-schools is about £200. Dr. Bell's method of instruction has been adopted in all the charity-schools at Chester.

In Commonhall-lane is the hospital of St. Ursula, for six poor decayed persons, founded by Sir Thomas Smith and others, in 1534, with a slender endowment; in Pepper-street is an alms-house, founded in 1658, by Mr. William Jones, for ten poor single persons, four men and six women, with an endowment now worth about £80 per annum. There are two alms-houses in Trinity parish, with small endowments, one of which was founded in 1674, by Robert Fletcher, for four poor widows; the other by James Mainwaring, Esq. for three poor widows. In the year 1658, Owen Jones, of Chester, gave some lands at Minera, in Denbighshire, now let at £31. 10s. per annum, to the poor brethren of the several city companies in rotation; in consequence of a lead mine discovered on this land, in 1756, a considerable sum was cleared for the charity, the interest of which, in addition to the rent of the estate, now renders the income of this charity £400 per annum. A decree in chancery has lately been obtained for regulating the distribution of the arrears, and the future income. Thirty-five decayed freemen receive pensions of £4 per annum and a gown, once in three years, from benefactions given for that purpose, by Mr. John Vernon, and others.

The general Infirmary, which originated from a bequest of £300 given in 1756, by Dr. Stratford, commissary of Chester, was opened in 1761; the average number of in-patients, exclusively of casualties, venereal patients, and fever patients, is from 70 to 90. The number of in-patients, admitted in 1808, was 779, of out-patients 1343; the total number of patients, admitted since the institution commenced, has been 80,973. The fever-wards were first constructed in 1783, at the suggestion of Dr. Haygarth, then one of the physicians to the Hospital; there are two of these wards, one for male, the other for female patients, each containing ten beds: patients are admitted into these wards without recommendation. This excellent plan has been adopted in London, and other large towns, where they have been the means, under Divine Providence, of saving many lives to the community. The funded property of the Infirmary at Chester, in 1808, was £15,500 three per cents. the subscription of that year amounted to £1154. 9. 6. The Infirmary is attended by three physicians, and four surgeons.

VIEW OF CHESTER CASTLE.

CHESTER Castle is said to have been built by William the Conqueror, but very little of the ancient buildings now remains. The old hall, which stood in the lower ward, and had of late years been used as the shire-hall, bore the name of Hugh Lupus, who was made Earl of Chester by that monarch; and adjoining to it was a room, in which the Earls are said to have held their parliaments. Most of the ancient buildings of the castle were begun to be taken down in the year 1789, for the purpose of erecting a new county gaol, shire-hall, &c. The county gaol, (called the gaol of the castle of Chester) the shire-hall, the prothonotary's office, and record-rooms, now occupy the south-east side of the ancient lower ward. The gaol, a spacious and commodious structure, was completed and opened in the year 1798. The shire-hall, situated in the centre of the lower ward, is a magnificent structure, each of the columns of the portico being twelve in number, is formed of one stone, twenty-three feet in height, from the Manley quarry; there are also twelve columns within the hall, each of one stone, nineteen feet in height, besides the capital; these are of the Ionic order, those of the portico of the Doric; the hall is eighty feet by fifty, and forty-four feet in height; the south-east side is semicircular. On the south-west side of the lower ward, is an armoury, completed in the year 1807, capable of containing thirty thousand stand of arms. All these buildings have been erected from the designs, and under the superintendence, of Mr. Harrison. The north-east and north-west sides of the area were occupied by the barracks, which are now taken down, and an exchequer court, to be used occasionally as a sessions house, built. New barracks also, and a large provost, for deserters, have been erected near the same site. All the upper ward of the castle remains, except the gateway which separated the two wards; at the south-east angle is the ancient building, called Julius Cæsar's tower, now used as a magazine for gunpowder. A new magazine is erecting, in a more secure place, in the fosse, under the battery, on the south-side of the upper ward; in the same ward are store-rooms, and apartments belonging to the governor, which are occupied by the officers of the fort and barracks, except during the assizes, when the judges reside in the castle, of which the chief justice then has the custody, and gives the watch-word. The castle is usually garrisoned by two companies of invalids, and is under the command of a governor, lieutenant-governor, and constable.

VIEW OF THE ROWS, AT CHESTER.

THE carriage road, in the principal streets in Chester, is on a level with the under-ground warehouses; over these are open galleries, called rows, for the accommodation of foot passengers, which occupy the space between the front of the tradesmen's shops, and the street; the upper rooms of the houses project over the rows, so as to be even with the warehouses beneath. The general appearance of these rows is as if the first stories in front of all the houses had been laid open, and made to communicate with each other, pillars only being left for the support of the superstructure; the foot passengers appear, from the street, as if they were walking along within the houses, up one pair of stairs. At the intersections of the streets there are flights of steps leading to the opposite rows. Some of the rows are so wide that the proprietors place stalls between the footway and the street, which they let out advantageously to other tradesmen, particularly during the fairs. Some have attributed the origin of these rows to the period when Chester was liable to frequent attacks from the Welsh; which induced the inhabitants to build their houses in this form, that when the enemy should, at any time, have forced an entrance, they might avoid the danger of the horsemen, and annoy their assailants as they passed through the streets.

VIEW OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AT CHESTER.

THE parish Church of St. John was formerly collegiate, and is said to have been founded by Etheldred, Earl of Mercia, in the seventh century, and to have been rebuilt by Earl Leofric, who died in 1057. In the year 1075, Peter, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, whose diocese included the City and County of Chester, removed his see to Chester, and made St. John's his cathedral church. He is said to have established in it a Dean, and certain canons; and to have been buried within its walls; his immediate successor, Robert de Lindsey, in 1102, removed the see again to Coventry, but St. John's Church remained collegiate till the reformation, at which time it had a Dean, eight canons, and prebendaries, and ten vicars choral. This venerable structure is, for the most part, of Saxon architecture, and in the style of the eleventh century: the chancel, exhibited in this view, has been formed out of the cross and part of the choir of the original edifice. The massy piers and circular arches formerly supported a large square tower, which fell down in the fifteenth century, and destroyed a great part of the choir. In the year 1581, the parishioners, having obtained a grant from the Queen, of the remains of the collegiate church of St. John, began to build up some part of it again, and to cut off all the chapels above the choir. The remains of the choir, as it was then fitted up, with the nave, have ever since been used as the parish Church.

VIEW OF ASTBURY.

THE parish Church of Astbury is a handsome gothic structure, with a spire; the roof, which is richly carved in wood, was put up in 1616 and 1617; the artist's name, Richard Lowndes, and the names and arms of the principal gentry of the parish appear on the frieze. In the chancel is the monument of Mary, daughter of Richard Grosvenor, and wife of Sir Richard Egerton, of Ridley, put up in 1609; at the East end of the South aisle is an ancient figure, in plain armour, with mail gorget, which, by the arms on the surcoat, appears to have been one of the Davenport family. In a chapel at the end of this aisle are monuments of the Bellots, of Moreton; and in the same aisle those of Peter Shakerley, of Somerford Hall, who died in 1781, and Edmund Swetenham, Esq. of Somerford-Booth, who died in 1768, being the last heirs male of those ancient families. The chapel at the end of the north aisle, is the burial place of the Moretons, of Little-Moreton, but there is no other memorial of them, than a slab, inscribed to the memory of Sir William Moreton, recorder of London, the last heir male, who died in 1763, and his lady; there are monuments also in this chapel for Randle Wilbraham, Esq. of Rodehall, M. P. who died in 1770, and the late Richard Wilbraham Bootle, Esq. who represented the City of Chester in five successive parliaments, and died in 1796. In the church-yard are some very ancient monuments ascribed to the Breretons; one of which, by an inscription of comparatively modern date, is appropriated to Sir Ralph Brereton, and his wife Ada, daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon; but there is more reason to suppose that some of these, if not all, belonged to a younger branch of the family of Venables, which was settled for several generations at Newbold, in Astbury. The advowson of the valuable rectory of Astbury, which had belonged to the monastery of St. Werburgh, was given, by King Henry VIII. to the Dean and Chapter of Chester; but the grant being afterwards annulled, it was granted in fee farm by Queen Elizabeth. After passing through several hands, it was purchased by the Crewe family, and is now the property of the Right Hon. Lord Crewe. Among the records in the Tower is a licence from King Edward I. during his wars with the Welsh in 1282, to John de Stanley, Rector of Astbury, for buying provisions for the support of his household, at St. Botolph's fair. The following instance of longevity occurs in the register of burials belonging to this parish: " Alice Walker, widow, aged almost 105, buried November 28, 1747." This plate exhibits a north-west view of Astbury, in which Mowcop-hill, a striking feature in the neighbourhood of that place, appears at a distance.

VIEW OF BEESTON CASTLE.

BEESTON Castle was built about the year 1220, by Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, after his return from the Holy Land. Not long before the battle of Evesham, in 1265, James de Audley, and Urian de St. Pierre, took possession of Beeston Castle for the king; immediately after the battle, Prince Edward marched thither with Humphrey de Bohun, Henry de Hastings, and Guy de Montfort, in his train, as prisoners. In the year 1399, Beeston Castle was garrisoned with one hundred men, and well victualled by King Richard II. who is said to have deposited there his jewels, and other treasures, but it was surrendered, without a siege, on the approach of Henry of Lancaster, who found in it treasure to the amount of 200,000 marks, which he carried with him to Chester. During the civil wars, in the seventeenth century, this castle, which is described by Leland as being in his time in a ruinous state, was repaired, and garrisoned by the parliament, having been taken possession of by a party of their forces, on the 21st of February, 1643. On the 13th of December following, Beeston Castle was taken by surprize by Captain Sandford; Captain Steel, who held it for the parliament, was shot for treachery. After this it was three times besieged by the parliamentary army; the last time was after the battle of Rowton heath. After a close siege of several weeks it was surrendered to Sir William Brereton, on the 6th of November, 1645, the provisions of the garrison being quite exhausted. Soon after the taking of Chester, which happened in February 1646, Beeston Castle was demolished. The remains of the castle occupy the side of a hill, which rises with a regular, but steep, ascent, to the brink of a lofty and inaccessible precipice; the walls of the outer court, in which are now some large stone-quarries, are of considerable extent, of an irregular form, with several towers; at the gate of entrance, are two circular towers; the entrance under the gateway is very narrow, over rugged steps, formed out of the natural rock, the keep is surrounded by a deep ditch, sunk in the solid rock, over which is a drawbridge. The remains of this venerable fortress form a striking object in the scenery of a large surrounding district.

VIEW OF MACCLESFIELD CHURCH, OR CHAPEL.

THE parochial chapel of Macclesfield was originally built by King Edward I. in the year 1278; it was consecrated by the Bishop of St Asaph, by virtue of a commission from Robert de Longespee, Bishop of Lichfield. William Smith, a Cheshire antiquary, describes this chapel as having a very high spire in 1585; it has now a handsome tower, but the spire has long been removed; the chapel was enlarged, and, in great part rebuilt, in 1740. The South aisle of this building was the chapel of a college of secular priests, built by Archbishop Savage; in this aisle are several monuments of the Savage family; among which are those of Sir John Savage, K.G. who was seven times sheriff of Cheshire, and three times mayor of Chester; and Thomas Savage, Earl Rivers, with his effigies in white marble, by Staunton; on the East wall is a brass plate, with the effigies of Roger Legh, who died in 1506, above which is the figure of a mitred ecclesiastic, kneeling at an altar, with the following inscription: "The pardon for saying five *pater-nosters*, and five *aves*, and a *cred*, is twenty-six thousand and twenty-six days of pardon." In the Legh aisle are memorials of the family of Legh, of Lyme; among which the most remarkable is that of Perkin a Legh, with the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the bodie of Perkin a Legh.
That for King Richard the deth did die,
Betrayed for righteousnesse.
And the bones of Sir Peers his sonne,
That with King Henry the Fifth did wonne
In Paris.

"This Perkin served King Edward III. and the blacke prince his sonne, in all their warres in France, and was at the battle of Cressie, and had Lyme given him for that service, and, after their deathes, served King Richard the second, and left him not in his troubles, but was taken with him and beheaded at Chester by King Henry the fourth, and the said Sir Peers, his son, served King Henrie the Fifth, and was slain at the battle of Agincourt. In their memory Sir Peter Legh, of Lyme, Knt. descended from them, finding the saide olde verses written upon a stone in this chappell, did re-edifie this place, A. D. 1620.

The heroic exploits, erroneously attributed in the above inscription to Perkin a Legh, were performed by his father in law, Sir Thomas Daniers. The Mayor of Macclesfield is patron of this chapel, subject to the approbation of the Bishop.

VIEW OF NANTWICH.

NORTH WEST VIEW OF NANTWICH CHURCH.

NANTWICH is a large market town, lying on the high road from London to Chester, one hundred and seventy miles from the former, and twenty from the latter. It is first noticed in history as the scene of various conflicts between the English and their neighbours, the Welsh, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; from which time we hear nothing of it till the civil war in the seventeenth century. Nantwich was then first occupied by the parliament, and esteemed an important garrison. Lord Grandison took it by a *coup de main*, in October, 1642, but soon afterwards evacuated it. Sir William Brereton then took possession of it again for the parliament, and fortified it with mud walls and ditches; it continued to be a parliamentary garrison till the end of the war, but sustained a severe siege from Lord Byron, in the month of January 1644; the siege was raised on the 25th, in consequence of Lord Byron's defeat, by the united forces of Sir Thomas Fairfax, and Sir William Brereton. This day was many years distinguished by the name of the holly holyday, the townsmen celebrating it annually with much festivity, and appearing with sprigs of holly in their hats. Nantwich Church was made a prison during the siege. The town was disgarrisoned by the parliament in January, 1646. Colonel Harrison, a celebrated officer in the parliamentary army, and one of the regicides, was son of a butcher in this town.

Nantwich was almost destroyed by fire in 1438; a similar calamity happened to it in 1583; in the latter year the damage was calculated at 30,000*l*. A general collection was made throughout the kingdom; the epitaph of Mr. John Masterson, in Nantwich Church, attributes the success of the collection, and the speedy re-building of the town, almost wholly to his exertions. Many of the houses then erected remain to this day, and give the town a singular appearance; the timber, which is intermixed with lath and plaister, is painted black.

In the year 1617 King James I. visited this town, and was entertained by Mr. Wilbraham, of the Townsend. On the day of his arrival (August 25) he inspected the salt pits, and saw the process of making brine; the next day, being Sunday, he attended divine service, and heard a sermon from Mr. Dod, Archdeacon of Richmond.

There has been a market at Nantwich on Saturday from time immemorial; it has of late years declined as a corn-market, but is abundantly supplied with provisions; from Candlemas day to July there is a good show of cows and pigs. The Earl of Cholmondeley is entitled to the toll of cattle, roots, and fruit; and Lord Crewe to the toll of corn and fish. There are three fairs; St Bartholomew's day, March 26th, and December 15th.

The brine pits at this place were for many centuries a source of extensive commerce. King Henry III. caused them to be filled up to distress the Welsh, but on the return of peace they were again opened. In the reign of Henry VIII. there were 300 salt-works at Nantwich; in Queen Elizabeth's reign they were reduced to 216; in 1624 they were further reduced in number nearly one half; in consequence of pits of a stronger quality having

been discovered in other parts of the country, where the advantage of water-carriage has been superior, the salt manufacture has been rapidly declining, and there is now only one salt-work in the place. The Chester canal, which comes within a quarter of a mile of the town, was completed in 1778.

In 1801 there were 824 houses in Nantwich; the number of inhabitants was 3463, of whom 1434 were employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft. There are now not more than six persons employed in the salt-works. There is an extensive cotton manufactory belonging to Mr. Bott, who employs a great number of hands; exclusively of these the principal employment of the labouring class is the making gloves and shoes for exportation.

The Town-hall at Nantwich was built in 1720; but so ill constructed that a great part of it fell down in 1737, by which accident several persons lost their lives. The quarter sessions were removed from Nantwich to Knutsford, in the year 1760. The inhabitants of Nantwich are exempt from serving on juries out of the town, or in the town, if associated with strangers.

Nantwich was the seat of the Barony of Wich-Malbank; which became divided among female heirs, after the death of William de Malbank, the third Baron, in the reign of Edward I. The castle, of which there are no remains, stood near the Welsh bridge.

The Church, which is a spacious and beautiful gothic structure, is built in the form of a cross, and has an octagonal tower, with battlements and pinnacles. There was formerly a chapel in Welsh row, near the bridge, dedicated to St. Anne, of which there are now no remains. The Quakers, Methodists, and Presbyterians, have meeting-houses at Nantwich; a large chapel was built by the Methodists in the late Mr. Wesley's connection, in 1808.

There was an ancient hospital in Nantwich, with a free chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas, founded by the Lovell family. Sir Roger Wilbraham, in 1613, founded an alms-house in Welsh row, for six poor men, and endowed it with a rent charge of 20*l.* per annum, issuing out of certain salt-works; on the failure of which, his daughter, Elizabeth, gave a meadow at Henhull for its better support. Sir Edmund Wright, in 1637, founded a hospital for six poor men and endowed it with 32*l.* per annum; his daughter, Mrs. Charlton, gave the sum of 200*l.* with which lands were purchased for the purpose of adding five widows to this establisment. An alms-house, for seven poor persons, was built in Beam-street, in 1767, pursuant to the intention of Sir Thomas Crewe, serjeant at law, who died in 1633, and Sir John Crewe, of Utkinton, who died in 1711. An alms-house in Welsh-row, was founded in 1676, for six widows, by Roger Wilbraham, Esq. and endowed with 24*l.* per annum. The same Roger Wilbraham founded another alms-house, for two old maids, and endowed it with lands and money, producing in 1786 six pounds per annum. Randle Wilbraham, Esq. in 1721, gave an augmentation to the two alms-houses last mentioned. Six dwelling-houses have been purchased and appropriated to poor men and their wives, with an allowance of 5*l.* to each house, out of the benefactions of Mrs. Ermine Delves, in 1722, and Mr. Matthew Meakin, in 1738.

John and Thomas Thrush, of London, wool-packers, founded a school at Nantwich, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the school-house, which is said to have been the hall of St. Mary's gild, was purchased of the Queen. The school has an endowment of 9*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* per annum; for which six boys are taught gratis. There is also a charity-school for forty boys, called the Blue-cap-school, principally endowed by the benefactions of the Wilbraham family. Mrs. Crewe gave 5*l.* per annum to this school, and it has been augmented by other small donations.

VIEW OF THE CROSS AT SANDBACH.

THE lower part of the cross, or obelisk, now standing in the market-place, at Sandbach, is of the Cheshire red grit-stone: it is six feet one inch in height, and two feet one inch and a half, by one foot eight and a half, at the base: the four sides are covered with figures, in bas-relief, rudely executed; on the east and west sides, which are the widest, are borders of braids, and knots of elegant patterns. This obelisk is fixed in a large stone, one foot two inches in thickness, and nearly a square of four feet; at the distance of eight inches from this stone, or plinth, is another, of larger dimensions, one of the sides of which is four feet; and each of the other three, about five feet. In this last-mentioned stone is a socket, two feet nine inches and a half, by two feet three inches and a half, wherein another cross or obelisk has stood. A large fragment of this last-mentioned cross was removed by Sir John Crewe, in the beginning of the last century, to his seat at Utkinton Hall, near Tarporley, and now stands in Mr. Egerton's grounds, at Oulton, near the park wall, not far from the lodge. Three other fragments are lying at a well below the town of Sandbach, and part of the top has lately been discovered, from which it appears to have been at least eighteen feet in height. Some fragments of the first-mentioned cross are lying in one of the streets at Sandbach. These crosses were broken down during the civil war, in the reign of King Charles the first.

VIEW OF STOCKPORT

STOCKPORT is a large market town, on the Mersey, which divides it from Lancashire, and is 175 miles from London. It was made a free borough by Robert de Stockport, in the reign of Edward I. The same Robert procured a grant of a market in 1260, and a fair for seven days, at the festival of St. Wilfred. Friday is the market day; it is a great mart for corn, cheese, and oatmeal; the market continues open till Saturday night, for butchers' meat, and other provisions. There are four fairs, March 4, March 25, May 1, and October 23. The May-day fair is a considerable mart for cattle. Stockport is said to have been formerly incorporated, but no charter is extant. A Mayor is still nominated annually, by the Lord of the manor, at his court, but his office is merely nominal.

The population of the town, as returned in 1801, consisted then of 14,830 persons; of whom 14,580 were reported to be chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, or handicraft. The chief manufacture of the town is that of cotton spinning, of which there are 25 factories; there are several factories also for making muslin: the first silk-mills introduced into this country are said to have been set up at Stockport; there is now only one silk-mill, although some years ago winding and throwing silk were the chief manufactures of the town; the making of hats is carried on to a considerable extent.

There was anciently a castle at Stockport, which in the year 1173 was held by Geoffrey de Costentine, against King Henry II. It belonged afterwards to the Stockports. On the site of this castle is now a large circular building, erected by Sir George Warren, for a market house, and afterwards used as a muslin-hall, but now unoccupied.

Stockport was garrisoned, during the civil war, by the parliament, and was considered as an important post; it was taken by Prince Rupert, after a short contest, in 1644. Stockport Bridge was blown up in 1745, to prevent the retreat of the rebels, after their advance to Derby.

In the parish Church, which is an ancient structure, are some monuments of the Warren family; that of the late Sir George Warren, K. B. by Westmacott, was put up by his daughter and heiress, Lady Viscountess Bulkeley, the representative of the Warrens, Stockports, and Etons.

St. Peter's Chapel was founded in 1768, by William Wright, Esq. who procured an act of Parliament for that purpose, and endowed it with a rent charge of 120*l.* per annum. There are in Stockport a Presbyterian meeting-house, another for the Quakers, and several Methodists' meeting-houses.

Sir Edmund Shaa, Lord Mayor of London, founded a free-school in Stockport, in the year 1487, and endowed it with 10*l.* per annum, which, by other benefactions, and 10*l.* per annum, payable out of the town lands, is increased to 46*l.* The Sunday-schools at Stockport are established upon a very extensive scale, being chiefly conducted by the methodists. A large school-house, 132 feet in length, 57 in width, and four stories high, was erected by subscription for this purpose in 1805; there are now upwards of 3000 children educated in it, wholly by gratuitous teachers, of whom there are upward of 200.

Edward Warren, Esq. in 1683, founded an alms-house for six old men, and endowed it with 20*s.* per annum for each pensioner. A dispensary was established at Stockport, on an extensive scale, about the year 1792. Lord Bulkeley is president, the Rev. Charles Prescott, the Rector, vice-president; eight hundred and forty-eight persons were admitted into the dispensary, and fever-house, from March 25, 1807, to March 25, 1808; the dispensary house was built in 1797; the fever-wards added in 1803.

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Inside View of the Chancel of St. John's Church, in Chester, taken from the South Transept.

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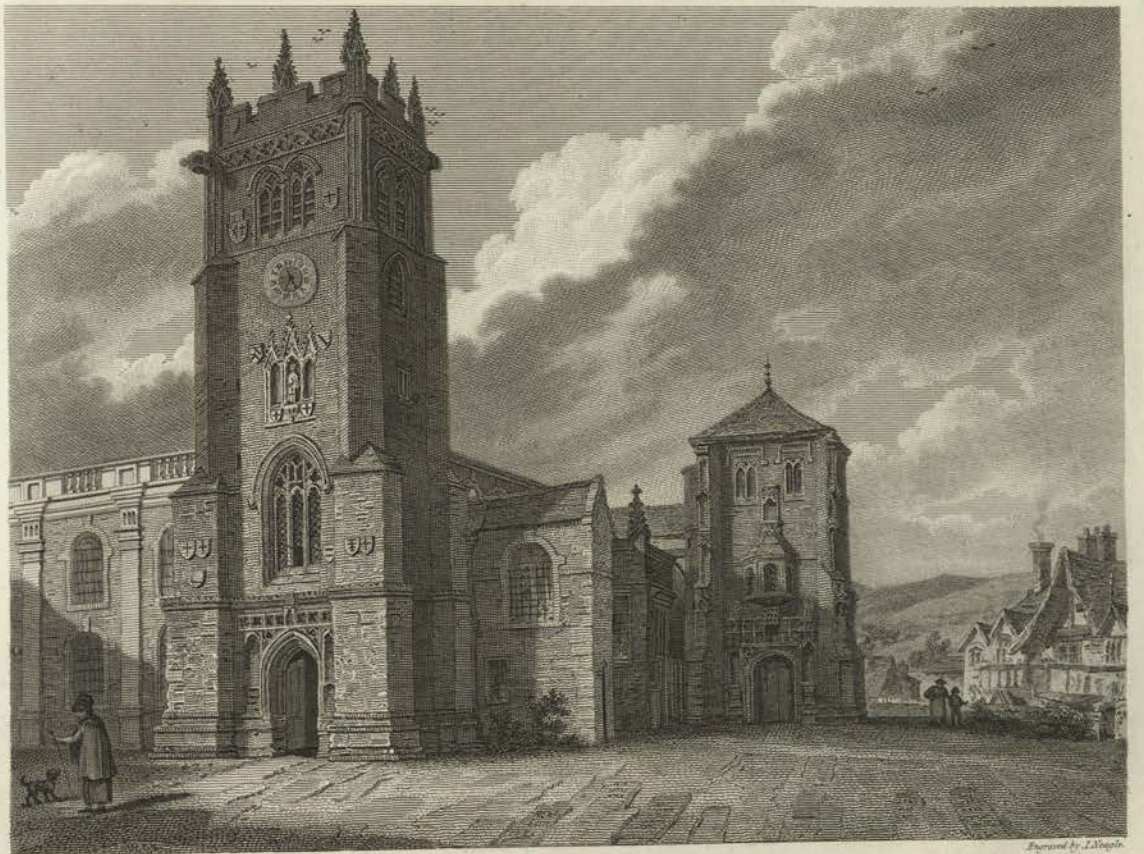

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